



BARCELONA, SPAIN 2015

MPL 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

5TH - 9TH November

The power of face-to-face meetings is at the heart of getting business deals. Any good Salesperson will vouch for that. It gives not only the opportunity to be persuasive, proving your services are better than the others, but offers an insight into both the company, and the character of the people they employ.

This is why over the years our Conferences have been so essential to the welfare of our members.

In almost every case, those within the Group, who attended the conferences, built up at minimum, one strong business rapport and sometimes even, became long lasting friends.

The price of attending a conference is inconsequential, when compared to the benefits reaped. To begin with – think of the cost of travelling to go meet each of these Freight Forwarders.

Whereas here they are ALL UNDER ONE ROOF. We have already established the significance of meeting face-to-face, plus the prospects of new business is greater, getting to know your fellow member, and demonstrating your support for your chosen organization – MPL. All these factors not only help you during that any one year of attendance, but also can hold you in good stead for a long time to come.

TO DATE, WE HAVE 157 ATTENDEES COMING FROM 56 COUNTRIES, AND BOOKINGS ARE STILL COMING IN.

ARGENTINA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
BAHRAIN
BANGLADESH
BELGIUM
BULGARIA
CANADA
CHINA
COLOMBIA
CROATIA
CYPRUS
DENMARK
EGYPT

FRANCE
GERMANY
GREECE
HOLLAND
INDIA
ISRAEL
ITALY
IVORY COAST
JORDAN
KENYA
KUWAIT
LEBANON
MALAYSIA
MALTA

MONTENEGRO
MEXICO
NIGERIA
NORWAY
OMAN
PAKISTAN
PHILIPPINES
POLAND
PORTUGAL
QATAR
RUSSIA
SAUDI ARABIA
SLOVAKIA
SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH KOREA
SPAIN
SRI LANKA
SWITZERLAND
SYRIA
TAIWAN
TUNISIA
TURKEY
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES
URUGUAY
VENEZUELA
YEMEN



Barcelona - Spain

This is the last **MPL Newsletter** before our **8th MPL Conference**, but I will be sending out further information next month!!

For those of you, who know Barcelona, know what a beautiful and fascinating city it is. A marvelous mixture of old and new. Whilst for those of you who don't you have a wonderful experience ahead of you and to look forward to.

As the English would say, 'the truth is in the pudding' and applies perfectly in this case, as to the reason why Barcelona is so famous for being one of the principal hubs in Europe for major Conventions and Exhibitions. The city and its facilities is what attracts all these events.



HOTEL ARTS BARCELONA

The HOTEL ARTS is by far the most spectacular and luxurious hotel we will have used to date for our Conferences. This in no way demeans the former venues, but it was felt necessary to use the most superb hotel in Barcelona that could accommodate our needs, because we knew in advance that the number of attendees would surpass all previous years. It was therefore necessary that we provided the best for so many people. The HOTEL ARTS was recently recognized by readers of the Meeting and Incentive Travel Magazine and awarded a Bronze for "Best Overseas Hotel". Considering this is global, it is quite an accomplishment.

The formal business schedule for Friday and Saturday will be in many ways different.

The **MPL Directors** have taken very seriously your requests in the past to extend the time for one on one meetings and this they have done by limiting Presentations.

We will now just have three outside speakers and an **MPL Member**.

The latter will NOT be talking about Freight Forwarding, but rather a matter affecting us worldwide.

The one on one meetings will now begin immediately after the morning coffee break.

In addition, over that two-day period our M.C. and PR man – Robin, who many of you already know, will privately interview each member company.





Thanks to our Host, Continental/ Barcelona, the evening events will be vibrant and exhilarating, but I will say no more, so as not ruin the surprise.

Then of course, we must not forget the annual **MPL Golf Tournament**, which will now take place on the morning the 5th November. Remember if you want to participate, you must arrive on the evening of the 4th. Further details are available through, the Golf Organizer and our **MPL Director**, Luis at luisgimeno@continentalwl.com

The informal Football Match started in 2012 has become an indispensable part of our Conferences. We already have a substantial number of participants booked but would welcome more.

If you are interested, please contact me at sandy@marcopoline.com. Once again with the emphasis on 'informal' all you need are trainers, a pair shorts and TWO T shirts – one dark and one light colored, and a sense of humor.

On Sunday, 8th November, we have the Optional Extra for those of you who wish to wind down after a hectic and strenuous 3 days. It consists of a relaxing trip to the Cordoniu Cellars, located about 30 minutes from Barcelona. This winery has been welcoming visitors since the last century and was designed by the architect Josep Puig I Cadafalch. The cellar was declared a Historic and Artistic National Monument in 1976 and represents one of the most outstanding examples of modernist architecture in Spain.

This will be followed by a BBQ lunch at a nearby destination. After lunch you will be escorted back to the hotel OR ALTERNATIVELY, now that you have relaxed, perhaps you are feeling more energetic then why not try GO KARTING. If you think this is 'right down your alley' and want to participate, please let me know at sandy@marcopoline.com.

REMEMBER THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW OPPORTUNITIES WHERE YOU CAN GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS (AND NON-MEMBERS), REKINDLE OLD FRIENDSHIPS, MAKE NEW ONES AND MOST IMPORTANTLY BUILD OR MAINTAIN LONG LASTING SOLID BUSINESS FOUNDATIONS.

Look Forward to seeing you all in November!



ON THE HORIZON



THURSDAY MORNING 5TH NOVEMBER, 2015

MPL GOLF TOURNAMENT

For full details please contact: **Mr. Luis Gimeno**
Email: luisgimeno@continentalwl.com

THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER, 2015 IN THE ARTS HOTEL

19:00 Welcome Drinks - Bring a Jacket because if the weather permits these will be taken out on the veranda.

20:00-22:30 Welcome Buffet Dinner.

FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER, 2015 IN THE ARTS HOTEL

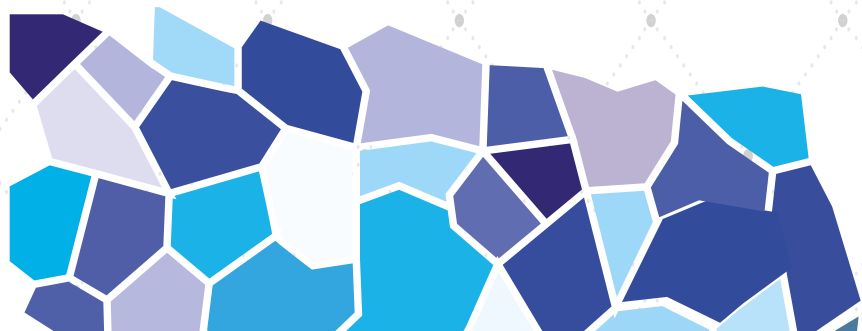
08:30-10:30 Presentations
10:30-11:15 Group Photo followed by Coffee/Tea Break
11:15-12:40 One on One Meetings (these will start earlier than previous years - based on your overwhelming past requests)
12:40-14:00 Lunch
14:00-15:30 One on One Meetings continue
15:30-16:00 Coffee/Tea Break
16:00-17:00 Continue with One on One Meetings
17:00 Close of Day's Business

FRIDAY EVENING, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2015

19:30 Transport to Restaurant
20:00 Estimated arrival
Pre-Dinner Drinks
21:00 Dinner with live entertainment at Ex Xalet de Montjuic
23.30 Buses available for those who want to return to the hotel or alternatively take taxis to other destinations in the city

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER, 2015 IN THE ARTS HOTEL

09:00-10:40 One on One Meetings
10:40-11:00 Coffee/Tea Break
11:00-12:40 One on One Meetings continue
12:40-14:00 Lunch
14:00-15:15 One on One Meetings continue
15:15 No official break as One on One meetings continue, but coffee/tea will be available
15:15-16:00 One on One Meetings continue
16:00 Close of Official Business
16:30 Meet in hotel foyer for those wanting to play football
17:00-18:30 Football (Soccer) Match and return to hotel





SATURDAY EVENING, 7TH NOVEMBER, 2015

19:30	Transport to Restaurant
20:00	Pre-Dinner Drinks
21:00	Dinner at El Principal de L'Eixample (with surprises)
23:00	MPL Party
02:00	CLOSE

**BUSES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR RETURN TO THE HOTEL
AT MID-NIGHT AND AGAIN AT 02.00 A.M.**

OPTIONAL EXTRA SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 2015

10:00	Pick-up at The Arts Hotel
11:00	Approximate arrival at Cordornju Cellars
13:00	Pick-up to transfer to Canals Casanovas for BBQ
15:00	Approximate transfer to return to The Arts Hotel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Alternatively those wanting to participate in Go Karting will be escorted to the appropriate site.</i>

**For those NOT taking the Optional Extra - will make
their own way to the airport for departure.**

Barcelona - Spain

8th ANNUAL CONFERENCE



ARABIAN CARGO GROUP SYRIA

“ Dear MarcoPoloLine Family,
Greetings from Damascus,

Am writing this email to all members, especially to those who didn't attend the Conference last year in Miami, where I gave a speech.

Before 2010, if anyone had asked me where I was from, I'd open a map and show them where Syria is located. Now Syria is the most famous country on the planet, NOT because Syria has Oil and Gas or the oldest monumental ruins on earth, BUT because of the incredible suffering of the Syrian people, not seen on such a scale since World War II.

I believe everybody is watching the news and sees the number of refugees, who are risking their lives to get to safe places such as Europe. Those people don't have any place to live anymore, because their homes were either in the countryside, unprotected against bombardment or in the center of the war zones. Generally, people can lead normal lives inside areas of Damascus, Aleppo, Lattakia and Tartous, because the National Syrian Army are there.

Refugees sought security in the cities. Having lost their homes, they arrived with only the possessions they could carry, many having escaped in the middle of a battle during the night, but that was before the numbers had reached such proportions. It is impossible to imagine.

After 5 years of war, destruction and suffering, the global media shows a very young boy face down dead on a Turkish beach in Bodrum, and the story begins there.....everyone is finally aware of what is going on. No one, however, can truly comprehend the numbers of Syrians who died in Syria or in the 'deathtraps' on their way to Europe.

I've gotten many calls from friends throughout the world, asking me how the situation is in Syria..... BUT one of my best friends, Naier Farroukh, our MPL agent in Tunis, called me after he had cancelled a trip with his family to Turkey. He said he couldn't swim in the same water where that small lad died, and he offered me 1000 USD for the Syrian children for food, clothes or whatever they needed most.

I really SALUTE Naier for his noble feelings. He has called me many times over the past 5 years to check on the situation here.

Very many thanks to all those MPL members who contacted me and appreciate their consideration and kindness.

I would, HOWEVER, like to ask everyone to help the Syrian people in Europe or in Syria for the sake of HUMANITY.”

ABDALLAH NABOULSSY



2015 COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

Things are going so well for freight firms that it's time to start worrying about the next real danger to the industry: 3D printing.

Disruption & Anticipation

All in all, the commercial transportation industry is in an enviable position. Fuel prices have tumbled and are not likely to return to stratospheric levels anytime soon. Traffic volumes, especially in the United States and some developing countries, are strong and forecast to improve further as the impact of the recent severe recession recedes. Moreover, the enormity of the downturn forced most transportation firms to cut costs sharply and identify efficiency opportunities in their operations just to stay above water. The success of those efforts has streamlined many of these companies significantly, putting them in a position to continue taking advantage of real earnings growth even as they add jobs and expand.

When times are good, as they are now, transportation companies would be wise to shed short-term ideas and examine the real but not immediately obvious disruptions that may be on the horizon - to anticipate today rather than react later. One structural change that we believe should be given careful consideration is not even in current discussions among transportation company management, but it will have to be before long.

That development is 3D printing. Seen by manufacturers as a way to streamline operations, improve quality, and lower costs, 3D printing has substantial implications for both domestic and international freight businesses, particularly in reducing the importance of some transportation lanes while possibly opening up new ones.

The contours of the threat

Perhaps the salient way that 3D printing could disrupt the transportation sector is through its impact on what goes into a product (manufacturing.net). Traditionally manufactured items often have dozens or even hundreds of parts that must be produced separately, delivered to a factory, and then assembled. A product made on a 3D printer, by contrast, generally has far fewer parts.

3D Printing's Impact on the Transportation Industry

As 3D printing becomes more common, many products, their parts, or the raw materials needed in their manufacture can be made locally — reducing or eliminating the need to ship them to market. Footwear and toys, for example, are likely to require much less shipping in the future because they both have relatively higher shipping costs and are highly suitable for 3D printing.



A good example is General Electric's jet fuel nozzles.

Under the traditional method, this component contained 18 separate parts made from a variety of raw materials.

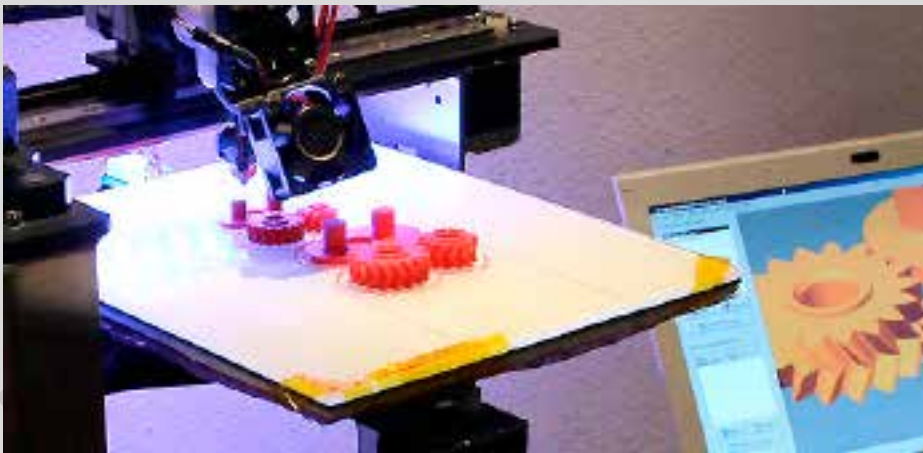
All of these parts had to be machined, cast, brazed, and welded before final assembly. Now, the nozzles are made from a single alloy using 3D printers with a process known as additive manufacturing, in which successive layers of the alloy are melted, shaped, cut with lasers, cooled, and then laid down on top of each other to produce the finished part.

These nozzles are lighter, more durable, and more fuel-efficient than conventionally manufactured ones, GE says.

Or consider the Strati, a car designed by Phoenix-based Local Motors. Whereas typical cars have tens of thousands of parts, the Strati has fewer than 50. The car's body is made from thermoplastics on a 3D printer; non-printed parts include the motor, transmission, wheels, and steering column. You won't see a Strati on the highway anytime soon (the maximum speed is around 40 mph, and the car doesn't meet requirements for highway use), but it may not be long before someone in your neighborhood is tooling around in one of these electric vehicles, which will weigh about two-thirds of what a typical car weighs and will sell for between US\$18,000 and \$30,000.

As more types of products are manufactured in this way — direct to a finished good instead of assembled from dozens, hundreds, or thousands of parts — the need to procure parts from multiple sources around the globe will be diminished. That, in turn, will eliminate or greatly reduce component and materials shipments, a mainstay of many transportation-sector business models today.

Fully 41% of air cargo and 37% of ocean container shipments are threatened by 3D printing.



2015 Commercial Transportation Trends Fully 41% of air cargo and 37% of ocean container shipments are threatened by 3D printing.
<http://strat.to/HbKdO>

This probable shift will come atop some weakness in lucrative global commercial transportation lanes resulting from re-shoring efforts, in which products and parts makers, hoping to avoid rising labor costs, piracy, and quality issues in low-cost nations, have begun to move manufacturing back to their home markets.

Although 3D printing (strategy+business) is mostly used to create prototypes today, as it becomes integral to full-blown production in the next few years — initially in areas like tooling products and custom jewelry and later in finished mechanical products — it could add significant momentum to the re-shoring trend.

Who gets hurt

In a recent Strategy& analysis of nearly two dozen industry sectors, we found that as much as 41 percent of the air cargo business and 37 percent of the ocean container business is at risk because of 3D printing.

Roughly a quarter of the trucking freight business is also vulnerable, due to the potential decline in goods that start as air cargo or as containers on ships and ultimately need some form of overland transport.

Rail companies are not as vulnerable because the goods being hauled — typically bulk materials like coal, grains, and liquids — don't lend themselves to other transport modes.

Drilling down into this data, we identified which industries are most likely to reduce their reliance on commercial shipping because of 3D manufacturing.

Using suitability for 3D printing as one gauge and the percentage of total transportation costs as the other, we found that footwear, toys, ceramic products, electronics, and plastics have the highest potential for disruption. Sectors such as perishables and pharmaceuticals, however, find 3D printing a less viable alternative.

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2015 Commercial Transportation Trends
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How to respond

The tipping point for 3D printing is still a few years away, so we are not suggesting that transport companies make major investments or wholesale changes to accommodate the arrival of this technology. But we do think a diagnostic review is critical, so that transportation companies have a clear picture of and anticipate well what their options are as the volume and variety of products made on 3D printers start to increase.

Ranging from least to most proactive, the options include:

- Stay the course. This is the right choice for transport companies that don't believe 3D printing will make an appreciable difference in their customer accounts.
- Rebalance. This is the right move for transport companies that believe 3D printing will transform some of their product categories but not others. It involves shifting the portfolio toward products less likely to experience disruption.
- Adjust network. This is the right strategy if transport companies believe their current domestic networks are not well positioned for the rise of localized production and transportation. It involves assessing and redesigning networks for more localized moves.
- Introduce new services. At transportation companies that believe 3D printing will create some fundamentally new opportunities (for instance, allowing them to set themselves up as "feedstock supply chain champions"), it will make sense to lay the groundwork for some completely new logistics services.

Historically, transportation companies' record of anticipating the impact of technological change has been spotty.

Their M.O. has typically been to wait until a technology arrives in full force and then figure out a response.

The uncertain timetable for 3D printing's broader adoption — and the impossibility of knowing for sure which companies will embrace it — might tempt transportation executives to opt for a reactive approach to this technology, too.

But the depth of the changes that 3D printing will ultimately bring to manufacturing argues against passivity. Instead of "wait and see," we advise peeking around the corner to figure out whether there might be any steps worth taking now.



Ursula Hendriks
Alfons Freriks Director
u.hendriks@alfonsfreriks.com

PROJECTS - BAHRAIN

DIYAR AL MUHARRAQ & DRAGON CITY



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DIYAR AL MUHARRAQ

Size: 115,000 sqm

Leasable area: 55,000 sqm (Phase 1)

Purpose: Wholesale and retail trade facility

Location: South West of Diyar Al Muharraq

Owner: Diyar Al Muharraq

Contractor: Nass Contracting Company

Operators: Chinamex

No. of shops: 780

Project completion: Expecting Jan 2016

The Dragon City project is built on 115,000 square meter of land with 55,000 sqm retail and wholesale area. The concept is focused on Chinese goods and establishments. The Dragon City project is now well progressed: Construction commenced in April 2014 and the mall expected to complete by end of June 2015.





QATAR-BAHRAIN CAUSEWAY

Value: US \$3 billion

Client: Bahrain Ministry of Works and Qatar Public Works Authority

Schedule: A joint venture between Vinci Construction, Middle East Dredging Company - Medco, Hochtief Construction AG, Consolidated Contractors Company and QDVC was awarded the main construction contract in May of the same year.

Recent reports revealed that construction is set to start next year and completed by early of 2018.

Scope: The Qatar-Bahrain Causeway will create a direct link and promote trade and travel between the two GCC countries. At present, the journey by road takes five hours; with the causeway, it will only take about 30 minutes.

The beginning of the causeway in Qatar will be located in the Ras Ashairij area, and a similar spot will be located North of Askar village in Bahrain.

MINIATURE DISNEY LAND

Total Cost: BHD 19 M

Location: Muharraq

Status: Under final approval process.

The Garden has been overrun by stray dogs since plans to pump \$50.4m (BHD19m) into the park were abandoned in April 2010 after the chosen Kuwaiti investor missed three deadlines to start work.

Councillors also want to rename the park after His Majesty King Hamad because it is the first government facility that tourists would come across after leaving Bahrain International Airport.

According to the original plans, the project would have featured a variety of rides, landscaping and the country's longest walkway at 1,550 metres.

The design also featured the biggest bowling alley in the Middle East with 45 lanes, which would have been equipped to host international championships.

Other facilities were to include a women's health club, medical centre, restaurants and coffee shops, a hotel with a multipurpose hall and a three-storey car park with a hydraulic elevator for vehicles.

Plans also included a miniature train to transport guests around the park and 14 buses to ferry visitors to the park from Saudi Arabia.

The council last year directed the Municipalities and Urban Planning Affairs Ministry to use the \$477,000 (BHD180,000) deposit of Kuwait-based Salah Al Rumaih to equip the garden with family rest areas, playground equipment and a walkway.

THE AVENUES MALL & THE CORNICHE

WORK on Bahrain's newest coastal development featuring a BD35 million (\$93m) waterfront mall got underway in Q1 2015.

Expected to end by Q4 2017.

The Avenues Bahrain shopping centre is the focal point of a new cornice being created by the King Faisal Corniche Development Company (KFCDC) off King Faisal Highway, with a creek separating it from Bahrain Bay.

The project offers public access to a 1.5km stretch of coast including children's outdoor play areas, a running track and outdoor gym sets, as well as waterfront restaurants and cafés, retail outlets, a suq, an indoor market and entertainment options such as movie theatres, children's arcades and a public park covering 85 per cent of the site.

The ground-breaking ceremony for The Avenues Bahrain, spread along Manama's north-facing waterfront, was held under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, who said it would boost retail trade and tourism, create direct and indirect employment and provide a new leisure and entertainment option.

Also present at the ceremony were ministers, KFCDC deputy chairman and Al Salam Bank Bahrain chief executive Yousif Taqi.





UPCOMING PLANS & PROJECTS

BAHRAIN AIRPORT EXPANSION PLAN

New Passenger terminal & Modernization of the airport.
Completion Expected : Q4 2018

The authorities consider this to be a key capital project as the facility now lags behinds other airports in the region.

The scope of the tender includes all piling works at the Manama-based airport.

Funded by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development and managed by consultancy was appointed in January 2015, the expansion project is expected to cost around \$1bn and boost capacity to 13.8mn passengers a year, bringing it in line with other airports in the region that have either upgraded or are in the process of doing so.

As such, UAE companies, or joint venture companies where the UAE partner has a 51% share, shall be given a 10% preferential discretionary scoring consideration.

Bahrain's transport ministry invited contractors to prequalify for the construction of a new passenger terminal and other buildings that will include all general civil engineering works, MEP, aircraft parking, car parks interiors, and exterior and related works.

BAHRAIN MONORAIL- GREEN LINE

Value: US \$2 billion Client: Bahraini Government

Schedule: The first part of the research into the monorail has been completed by Systra Consulting Company and, currently, Scomi Engineering is carrying out the second phase of the feasibility study for the project.

A tender is currently out for the main consultancy contract and construction is expected to start in Q3 of next year. Completion is scheduled for 2018.

Scope: The project calls for the construction of a monorail that will link regions of Bahrain to ease the traffic. The Green Line will be a 23km-long section and will extend from Juffair through Manama and to the Seef district.

BAHRAIN TO INVEST \$10BN ON RAIL LINK- NEW CAUSEWAY

Bahrain plans to invest a total of \$10 billion on a railway line connecting to the GCC rail network and a second causeway linking the country with Saudi Arabia, it has emerged. A feasibility study being conducted by Canadian engineering consultancy SNC Lavalin on the construction of the King Hamad Causeway, which will include the rail link. Two routes have been proposed for the 87-km rail link that will connect two stations on either side of the water, and Bahrain's station would be built on reclaimed land north of the existing King Fahad Causeway. "Preliminary studies are looking at possible landing points for the rail link into Bahrain, and it will likely be the newly-reclaimed area west of Madinat Shamaliya," said Transportation and Telecommunications Ministry Under-Secretary for Land Transport Maryam Jam'an. "The landing point will have an international multi-modal freight yard, with container and bulk material loading and unloading facility. "It will be integrated with our new bus network as well as a proposed light rail network."

Trains will travel at up to 120kmph and the feasibility study estimates that it could carry up to 143,000 containers in the first year of operation, rising to 343,000 in 2030 and 602,000 by 2050.



Container Freight Station
P.O. Box 23135
Gudaibiya, Manama, Bahrain





FMG Shipping and Forwarding Ltd

RUSSIANGIANT AIRCRAFT "RUSLAN"

During the entire existence of mankind, there were three revolutions in the development of cargo transportation:

- 1) The invention of the wheel. After that, the process of transportation became so much easier.
- 2) The period when some animals such as horses were tamed. Man did not have to expend so much energy on transportation.
- 3) The invention and manufacture of vehicles. It was then possible to greatly reduce transportation time and reduce the cost of human energy. Nowadays technology has become more and more expert as one can transport goods in any quantity and to any distance.

Air transport - the fastest mode of transportation, but the most expensive compared to auto, rail or sea. In the current market conditions, the supplier using this method has the fastest financial turnover. It means the minimum time between payment of the goods, their delivery to the buyer and receiving payment.

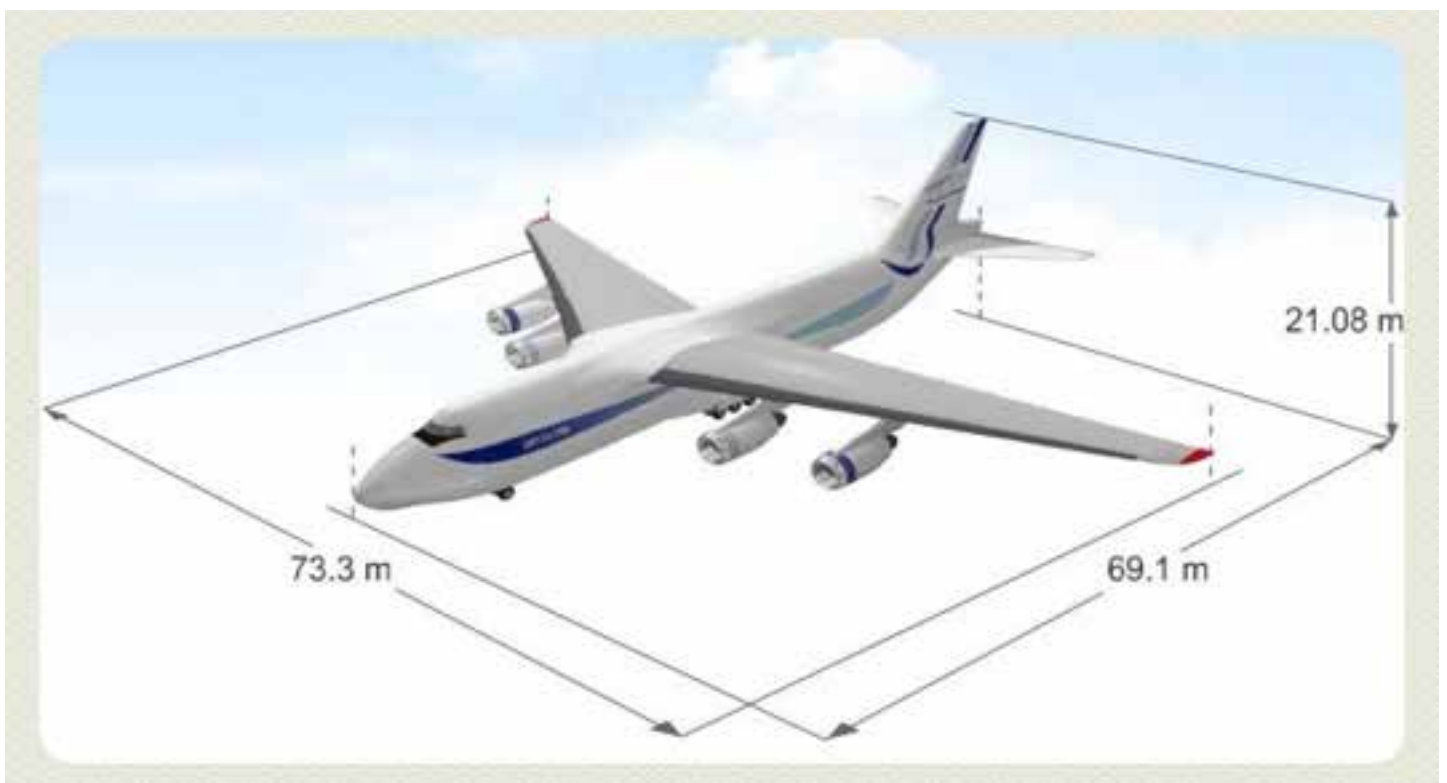
This makes it possible not to conserve working capital funds in the course of transportation.

In this article, I would like to write about a unique kind of transport airplane called the Ruslan.

The 4-engine airplane project An-124 was first introduced in the early 1970s. A full-size model of the future "Ruslan" was built in 1973. The "Ruslan" name comes from an Old Russian named epic hero, in a Slavic Fairy-tale.

"Ruslan" - the first Soviet aircraft equipped with an onboard automatic system that checked the operation of all units, and ensured that the crew understood the "Manual operation of the flight." Automation defined the maximum allowable take-off weight, depending on the airport, protected the aircraft from entering the supercritical regimes. Thanks to the use of composite materials, the "Ruslan" began to weigh six tons less.

The first flight of "Ruslan" serial number "01-01" was 24th December 1982.





FMG Shipping and Forwarding Ltd

To demonstrate the An-124 possibilities, the USSR leaders decided to initiate a record number of flights immediately after the completion of each airplane being built.

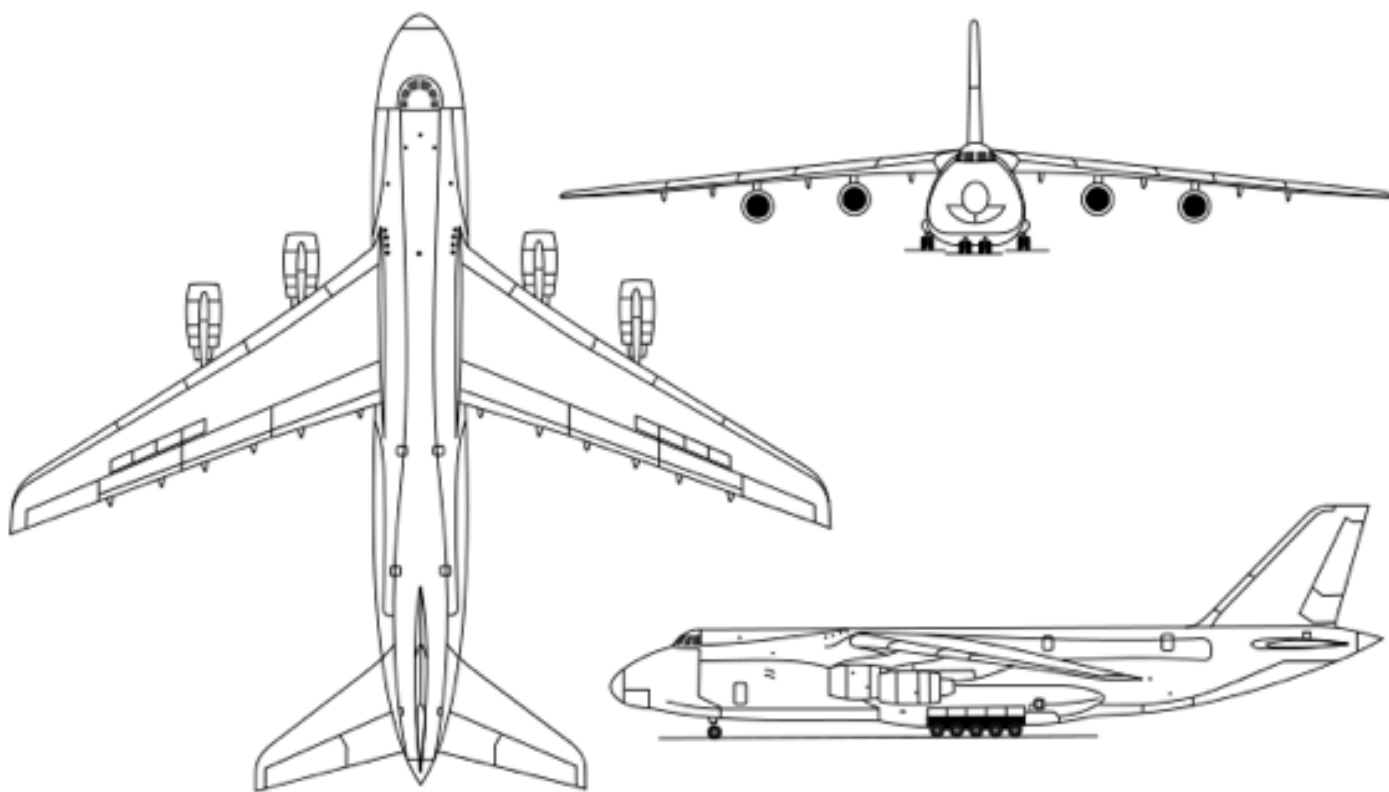
By July 26, 1985 the crew had already set 21 world records, including the complete achievement of lifting cargo weighing 171.219 tons to a height of 10,750 m.

In May 1987 the AN-124 № 01-08 performed nonstop flight lengths of 20151 km along the borders of the Soviet Union for 25 hours and 30 minutes.

Take-off weight reached a record - 455 tons.

In December 1990 the AN-124 a circumnavigation, flight began from Australia (Melbourne) -South Pole, Australia with a stops in Brazil (Rio de Janeiro), Morocco (Casablanca) and the USSR (Vozdvizhenka). Flight length of 50005 km took 72 hours 16 minutes.

The successful project of the global transport aircraft "Ruslan" was reached due to its technical characteristics. The plane wing passes through the upper half of the fuselage; the wings have 4 engines under there. The horizontal stabilizer on the tail was moved to the fuselage, while retaining all the handling and stability of parameters.



The main feature of this airplane was the availability of two cargo hatches -traditional (tail) and nasal (nose of the flip-up). It provided a way to organize the transportation through the plane's body. This made it possible to reduce the time of loading and unloading. Special chassis, which can «squat», reduced the angle of entry into the bow ramp and gave less stress to the tarmac on the airfield. There was a total the 56 copies of the An-124.

The Ruslan transported the world's unique and oversized heavy goods.

In the spring of 1993, two "Ruslan", were commissioned by the organizers of the rally "the London-Sydney", transported 40,107 cars of various types - first from Ankara to Delhi, Bombay and then to Perth (Australia).





FMG Shipping and Forwarding Ltd

In 1996 "Ruslan" performed the world's first mass air transportation of oversized and heavy cargo in Colombia under contract with British Petroleum. During two months, they made 53 flights and delivered 3,750 tons of oil drilling equipment.

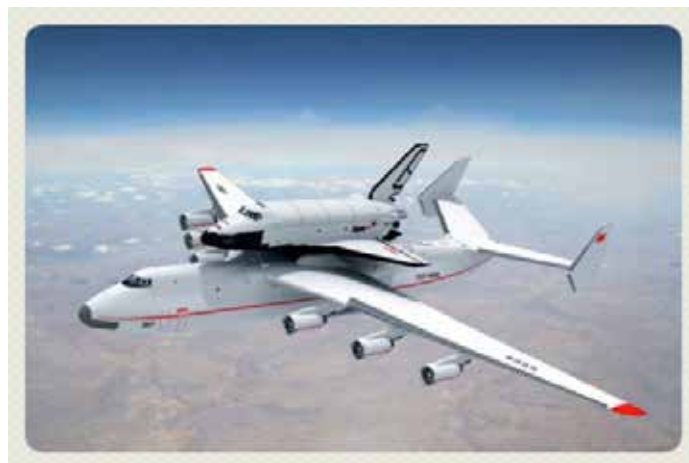
Among the unusual passengers on the An-124 were 68 animals, flown from Prague to Indonesia in 1997 (of which there were unique species of crocodiles, pygmy hippopotamus, plus four zebras and giraffes). In 2002 a charter flight from Japan to Taiwan carried 11 dolphins, which were placed in special boxes.

International stars have also employed the «Ruslan». In 1993, Michael Jackson, on world tour, moved to Moscow 310 tons of cargo on its three An-124-100. Four years later, the same flight was arranged for delivery of 100 tons of equipment, including a spaceship model, for the filming of the first episode of "Star Wars" from London to Tunis. In 2003, the "Ruslan" delivered a Stage for Paul McCartney from Hamburg to Moscow. The cargo with a total weight of 105 tons, included eight large screens, which were transported in special 40-foot containers.

In recent years, the future of the An-124 is associated not only with transportation but also with the participation of a number of space programs for launching platforms to air missile launch vehicles.

The reason for optimism is the large global demand for injection into orbit of the 'lightweight' spacecraft up to 3 tons, which is estimated to be about 2,000 launches during the period up to 2015. The calculation shows that at the start of the mass output from the aircraft rocket into orbit a payload increases by 20- 25%, which reduces the cost of removal and makes the project attractive to customers. This is not, however, the first case of this aircraft in space development projects. The plane carried the missile carrier Buran from Moscow to Kazakhstan.

The airplane has become quite popular and is used in many areas of human life, but the operation time will expire soon. It is, therefore, necessary to start production of updated models that Russia will begin in 2018. It means that we can soon see this giant airplane in a new version performing extraordinary missions, which are impossible with any other kind of transport units.



THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS WITH IRAN.



Iran is a large country with almost 80 million people, 60% of whom are under 30.

With July's nuclear deal, it paves the way for high foreign investment and now that we expect the sanctions soon to be lifted, so too will be the relationship with other countries.

For example, American firms have already started exploring the market potential.

We understand too that European companies are re-engaging with former Iranian business partners and they are likely to reap the benefits first, in exporting to us.

All types of consumer products will certainly profit, but also will durables.

In addition, with Iran located in the center of the Middle East, as a Freight Forwarder it is the shortest and safest way to be connected to other countries.

Bear in mind with all the conflicts and problems in the region over the years, Tehran Co. has always been stable, with reliability and safety being our highest concern.

Anyway we predict soon, a very good future in all the fields of international business and AS USUAL WE ARE READY!!

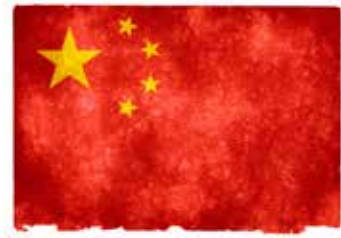


TIANJIN DISASTER

Last month on the 13th August, as all of you are aware, there was a devastating explosion in the important city and port of Tianjin, China.

Fortunately, we were able to report that the staff of our two member companies located in that city - Collyer and Ningbo Sailing - were unharmed.

Unfortunately, over 100 people lost their lives.

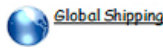
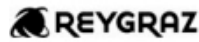


Since then there has not been much news on the subject and there seems to have been no reports on any after affects due to toxic chemicals in the atmosphere.

It seems that the day-to-day operations have largely resumed.

Whether or not it will create logistical delays and other supply chain problems for months to come, we will just have to wait and see.









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GROUP

Next Newsletter

The next edition of the MPL NEWSLETTER will be published before the end of this year.

It will fully cover the 8th MPL Conference including an abundance of photographs and a complete write-up of the event, from every aspect.