

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **SWISSPORT PLACES STRATEGIC FOCUS ON CARGO**

Swissport International is further strengthening its air cargo business and bundling responsibility for strategic development with a new Global Cargo Chair. The new role will be taken on by Dirk Goovaerts, Head of the Middle East & Africa region, who will focus on growing and developing this part of the business.

Swissport International is further strengthening its air cargo business. As of this week, Swissport will establish the function of a Global Cargo Chair. The new role will be held by Dirk Goovaerts, Head of the Middle East & Africa region, in addition to his current position. He will particularly focus on the strategic development of the cargo business.

The new chair will bring together Swissport's cargo experts from across the network, who will contribute their market knowledge and customer relationships. Sharing best practices, jointly developing strategies, and aligning in the development of new markets are key focus areas.

"Swissport is one of the largest air cargo handling companies in the world. Air cargo is one of the strategic pillars and of fundamental importance to our airline customers and the global supply chain," says Dirk Goovaerts. "Going forward, we will further develop our product with a special focus on digital acceleration, innovation and seamless integration with stakeholders in the air cargo community. Our goal is to become the air cargo handler of choice, delivering operational excellence for existing and potential customers in 116 warehouses around the world."

Dirk Goovaerts has joined Swissport on 1 September 2021. He has a proven track record in operating large cargo warehouses, customer centricity, operational excellence, innovation, digital acceleration and turnaround management, both driving growth and creating value for the customers. Prior to joining Swissport, Dirk was CEO Asia Pacific with dnata. Previous roles included the positions as COO of Saudi Ground Services Company and Senior Vice President Europe with Menzies Aviation.

In 2020, Swissport International AG provided best-in-class airport ground services for some 82 million airline passengers (pre-Covid 2019: 265 million) and handled roughly 4.1 million tons of air freight (2019: 4.6 million) at over 100 cargo warehouses worldwide. Several of its warehouses have been certified for pharmaceutical logistics by IATA's CEIV Pharma and by the British MHRA. The world's leader in airport ground services and air cargo handling, with currently around 43,000 employees, was active at 274 airports in 44 countries on six continents at the end of July 2021.

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