

SIA to operate five DHL B777 freighters under CM agreement

A Monitor Report

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Singapore : DHL Express, which recently signed a purchase agreement for six Boeing 777 freighters, has entered into a Crew and Maintenance agreement (CM) with Singapore Airlines (SIA) to deploy five of such Boeing 777 freighters.

This agreement marks a further step in DHL Express' expansion of its intercontinental air network to meet customer demand in fast-growing international express shipping markets.

"With the deployment of five Boeing 777 freighters, we can expand our express service linking the Asia Pacific region with the Americas. Following the pandemic, we see good prospects for strong growth in trans-Pacific trade lanes," said Travis Cobb, EVP, Global Network Operations and Aviation, DHL Express.

Based at Singapore's Changi Airport and serving DHL's South Asia Hub there, the freighters, which will sport a dual DHL-SIA livery, will be operated by SIA pilots on routes to the USA via points in North Asia. SIA will also oversee the maintenance of these aircraft.

The initial agreement is set for more than four years with the opportunity for an extension. As part of the agreement, the first aircraft delivery will be in July 2022, with the second in October 2022. The remaining three aircraft are planned for delivery throughout 2023.

Lee Lik Hsin, Executive Vice President Commercial, SIA, said, "This new freighter operation will support the fast-growing e-commerce segment, in addition to other key business segments that rely on trusted express services that DHL excels in providing. Basing these freighters at Changi Airport will further reinforce Singapore's position as a key air cargo and e-commerce logistics hub, contributing to its growth and development."

DHL Express continuously invests to meet steady growth in cross-border time-sensitive shipments. It operates over 320 dedicated aircraft across its global network of 220 countries and territories. The Boeing 777 freighters are the world's largest, longest range, and most capable twin-engine freighters that also contribute to DHL's sustainability goals, reducing CO2 emissions by 18 percent compared to the legacy B747-400s.

SIA's cargo division operates to more than 90 destinations as part of its current network, which includes a fleet of freighters as well as the bellyhold space of the SIA and Scoot passenger aircraft. The airline recently ordered Airbus A350F freighters as part of its fleet renewal program. SIA continues to invest in its cargo capabilities, capitalising on healthy demand fueled by growth in e-commerce, fresh produce, and pharmaceuticals, among other segments.