

Emirates plans drone-based cargo delivery across its network

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Dubai: Emirates SkyCargo, the cargo division of Emirates, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LODD Autonomous to explore next-generation air-cargo solutions, including autonomous drone delivery across the airline's global network.

Under the MoU, both partners will work together to assess the use of VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) aircraft for cargo operations through feasibility studies, regulatory engagement, and live demonstrations.

LODD Autonomous recently completed a successful test flight of Hili—an unmanned, hybrid heavy-lift cargo aircraft developed and manufactured in Abu Dhabi. Hili operates fully autonomously from take-off to landing, offers a payload capacity of up to 250 kilograms, and can travel distances of up to 700 kilometers. Emirates SkyCargo is

evaluating the potential integration of Hili into its ground fleet to support operations across its dual-airport hub.

Emirates SkyCargo has long prioritized advancing the logistics ecosystem and setting new standards for excellence in the global logistics industry. Earlier this year, it launched Emirates Courier Express, a door-to-door delivery service aimed at enhancing last-mile logistics.

Abu Dhabi-based LODD Autonomous is at the forefront of transforming civilian logistics with cutting-edge unmanned and autonomous aerial vehicles, supported by AI-enabled software that streamlines operations, reduces costs, boosts sustainability, and speeds up delivery.

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