

Virgin Atlantic, Delta Cargo Fly Away Home to Heathrow

Virgin Atlantic Cargo and Delta Cargo are poised for takeoff to their new home: the new purpose-built dnata City East, London Heathrow's state-of-the-art cargo facility. The move supports the airlines' growing cargo businesses, enhances their trans-Atlantic partnership, and future-proofs the joint venture's position in the UK market by doubling the size of their cargo footprint at the airport.

Virgin and Delta aligned their cargo operations under one roof in the UK in June 2016, and the carriers now share cargo facilities at major U.S. gateways, notably Atlanta, Boston, Miami, New York, Orlando, and Washington Dulles.

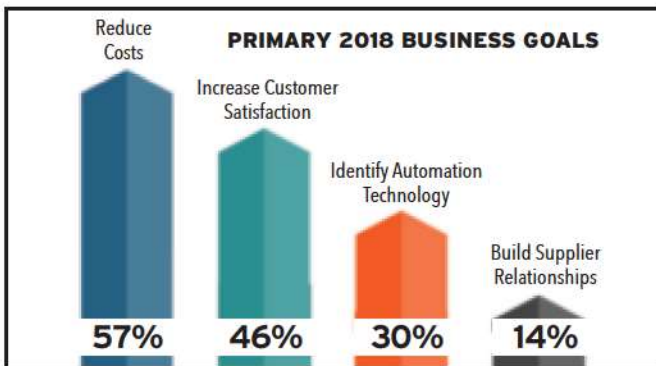
The move to the new facility—scheduled for the second half of 2019—will ultimately increase the size of Virgin and Delta's cargo operation at Heathrow to 335,000 square feet and help shippers benefit from greater automation and faster truck and cargo handling times.

Inside the warehouse, technology investments will enable staff using handheld devices to efficiently manage the flow of cargo, while the double-train ETV system will increase storage to 245 positions for pallets and containers. Customer



trucks arriving at the facility will benefit from a new door management system, which enables drivers to complete paperwork at the gatehouse on arrival without leaving their vehicles and to then be immediately assigned to one of the facility's 18 cargo doors.

The new location will also provide further benefits for shippers using Virgin Atlantic Cargo and Delta Cargo services to move temperature-controlled healthcare and life science products, as well as offering a dedicated perishables zone and an enlarged AVI center for live animals.



IS TECHNOLOGY THE SOLUTION TO GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN COMPLEXITY?

As global trade continues to transform the way companies are producing, moving, buying, and selling goods across borders, it's important for supply chain leaders to know about trade trends that can help them benchmark their company against the leaders and laggards.

To sort through emerging and existing technology, a recent survey by global trade management software provider Amber Road and the Association of American Exporters and Importers provides insight into what technology companies are using, the challenges these systems are expected to solve, and how companies are implementing them.

Here are some key statistics from the survey of more than 120 supply chain executives in a cross-cut of industries and roles.

■ While 77 percent of respondents state tariffs and duties top their list of concerns for 2019, 57 percent are looking to reduce supply chain costs (see chart above).

■ More than 50 percent are looking to solve sourcing and quality issues using technology (see chart above).

■ Only 40 percent are leveraging a Global Trade Management system for supply chain execution.

■ Even then, not all processes are automated, indicating continued reliance on manual processes.

■ Blockchain is being considered at 30 percent of responding companies; probably the same 33 percent that consider their companies as leaders in technology adoption.

The report gives guidance on how to build the "right" technology stack. Although finding the right stack might sound daunting at first, this task should be seen as a way to spark your company's innovativeness in finding new ways to compete and win.

Download the report at: bit.ly/TradeTrendsInbound

– Gary M. Barraco, Product Evangelist, Amber Road