



For manufacturers, suppliers and logistics partners the cargo airline offers tailored solutions.

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Lufthansa Cargo: A strong partner for the global automotive industry

- Automotive is a strategic focus industry for Lufthansa Cargo, offering tailored solutions for manufacturers, suppliers and logistics partners worldwide.
- Recent charter operations across Europe, North Africa and in the high-value segment demonstrate the company's operational strength and network flexibility.
- Air freight remains the fastest and most reliable transport mode for time-critical automotive logistics – from safeguarding production to transporting prototypes and high-value vehicles.

Modern automotive manufacturing is characterized by globally interconnected production networks, modular platform architectures and increasingly shorter development cycles. At the same time, supply chains face growing demands for speed, flexibility and resilience. In this environment, air freight plays a critical role by securing production continuity, accelerating market launches and enabling the reliable transport of sensitive and high-value goods.

Since 2024, Automotive has been established as a strategic focus industry at Lufthansa Cargo, with dedicated efforts to further develop industry-specific solutions. The air freight carrier provides tailored transport solutions for manufacturers, suppliers and logistics partners – ranging from time-critical production shipments to complete vehicles and high-value cargo. “Our automotive customers expect maximum speed and reliability. With our global network and specialized teams, we ensure supply chains remain stable even under significant time pressure,” says Frank Bauer, Chief Operations Officer at Lufthansa Cargo.

Safeguarding production within less than 24 hours

A recent charter operation in Europe illustrates how this expertise translates into practice. After missing components threatened production in Belgrade, an A321 freighter departed Frankfurt less than 24 hours after the request was received at the end of January. The shipment was loaded in Vienna using 13 main deck and 10 lower deck positions before being transported onward without delay. Two additional charter flights followed in the subsequent days. The operation highlights Lufthansa Cargo’s ability to quickly stabilize production risks and provide capacity at short notice, including the successful commercialization of return flights.

Scalable solutions for complex production requirements

Lufthansa Cargo’s operational strength is equally evident in large-scale production support: In February, the company operated eleven A321F charter flights from Casablanca for Mercedes-Benz within just eleven days. Despite exceptionally high airport utilization, local teams collaboratively ensured smooth operations and organized additional cargo and loading units at short notice to accommodate the required shipment volumes. Rapid operational adjustments and close coordination across multiple teams enabled the successful execution of the flights, demonstrating Lufthansa Cargo’s

scalability and responsiveness in time-critical production environments while proving the close cooperation with Mercedes-Benz.

Precision handling for high-value transport

Automotive logistics also includes the transport of highly valuable one-of-a-kind assets. In early February 2026, an exclusive, custom-built vehicle based on a Lamborghini Aventador was transported from Cairo to Europe. Following short-notice adjustments related to customs and documentation requirements, Lufthansa Cargo teams ensured safe and on-time delivery. The operation underscores the company's expertise in handling high-value shipments and managing complex international coordination processes.

The strategic development of Lufthansa Cargo's automotive segment is led by Rachid Massaoudi, Senior Manager Industry Development – Automotive. He analyzes global market requirements, advances industry-specific solutions and strengthens collaboration between customers, product development and operational teams. "In close coordination with our operational units, we translate individual customer requirements into feasible and tailor-made transport solutions," says Massaoudi.

With this broad range of capabilities, Lufthansa Cargo positions itself as a strong partner for manufacturers, suppliers and logistics partners across the global automotive industry, consistently pursuing its mission of "Enabling Global Business."

Lufthansa Cargo

Lufthansa Cargo is one of the world's leading cargo airlines and part of the Lufthansa Group, Europe's largest airline group. Through its five cargo hubs in Frankfurt, Munich, Brussels, Vienna and Rome, the airfreight specialist transports an average of 2,500 tons of freight per day. This is based on a strong and reliable airport-to-airport network that covers some 350 destinations in more than 100 countries. Lufthansa Cargo markets the cargo capacities of the passenger aircraft of Lufthansa Airlines, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, Discover Airlines, ITA Airways and SunExpress, as well as its own freighter fleet of 18 Boeing 777F and four Airbus A321F. In addition, some 300 trucks operate daily under a Lufthansa Cargo flight number.

Together with its subsidiaries, Lufthansa Cargo offers customized, fast and efficient logistics solutions along the entire supply chain. In this way, the company fulfills its mission "Enabling Global Business" and connects markets and trading partners worldwide. Innovative technologies and investments in sustainability play a central role. In addition to a modern fleet and the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), the focus is on continuous optimization of flight operations. In 2025, the company generated revenues of 3.40 billion euros and a transport performance of 9.1 billion freight tonne-kilometers. It currently employs approximately 4,300 people worldwide.

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