



Aug 29, 2023 17:00 CEST

## Lufthansa Cargo and Avflight are upgrading cargo operations at Detroit Metropolitan Airport

- **First milestone reached in multi-year development plan: Successful transition into temporary warehouse on apron area of Detroit Metropolitan Airport in August 2023**
- **Avflight, Lufthansa Cargo's partner in Detroit, will construct a new state-of-the-art cargo warehouse in the near future**
- **Direct apron proximity of temporary and future cargo warehouse saves time and operating costs, and offers customers more services in the automotive, valuable cargo, hazardous goods and animal shipments product areas**

Together with ground handling agent Avflight, Lufthansa Cargo, a leading network carrier in the U.S. state of Michigan, is moving operations onto the apron at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW).

With the recent move in August to on-airfield cargo warehousing facility, the new location will allow for handling of international air cargo that allows for streamlined operations and shorter distances for loading and unloading aircraft. Lufthansa Cargo will offer customers improved product offerings and reduced handling times while benefiting from efficiency gains in its operation.

During the three-year planning phase for this major project, Lufthansa Cargo identified in Avflight a suitable local partner with ambitions to grow in the cargo business. With currently more than 500 tons of cargo handled per year on seven weekly passenger flights, multiple truck connections to Chicago (ORD) and ad-hoc services offered, Detroit is an important location for Lufthansa Cargo in the automotive-driven region of Michigan with potential for expansion.

The relocation of the so-called warehouse in direct proximity to the apron is a project with two phases. Beginning in August 2023, with Avflight's support, Lufthansa Cargo is operating out of a former aircraft hangar that was converted into a temporary cargo warehouse. The more direct location allows for shorter handling times and offers opportunities to meet the requirements of special cargo shipments, such as animals, valuable cargo and dangerous goods shipments, even more comprehensively.

In the second phase of the project, Lufthansa Cargo will support Avflight in designing a new cargo facility next to the existing structure, which the handling partner is under contract with the airport to construct. Working closely together, the two partners will efficiently, sustainably and attractively design the warehouse's infrastructure to meet the needs of air cargo customers, including those in the premium segment.

Lufthansa Cargo plans to move into this Avflight-operated facility upon its completion. Discussions on this second phase of development are in the preliminary stages, but the goal is to be operational by the end of 2024.

"In Detroit, there is a great demand for secure and professional transport solutions, for example, urgently needed components in the automotive sector. There is a lot of weekly freight traffic here between Michigan and the

world, including destinations in Germany, Europe, South Africa and Thailand. The expansion of our warehouse capacity in this direct apron accessible location helps us improve the handling processes for faster and more direct service, and also enables Lufthansa Cargo to offer additional premium products and services to our customers. Our dedicated ground handling agent, Avflight, is providing us with significant support in these endeavors. As a Michigan-based company with valuable market knowledge and enthusiasm to expand its service offering in the cargo segment, we are positive about what we have achieved so far and look forward to further cooperation," said Henry Julicher, Head of Sales and Handling Michigan and Head of Sales Midwest at Lufthansa Cargo.

"Together with Avflight, we are creating an ideal basis with a future-oriented cargo location in Detroit to further position ourselves in the market as a reliable and professional partner for our cargo customers and thus actively implement the 'enabling global business' idea from Michigan by investing in a modern infrastructure as well as cost- and time-efficient handling processes," said Stephanie Abeler, Vice President and Head of Region Americas at Lufthansa Cargo.

---

## **Lufthansa Cargo AG**

With revenue of 4.6 billion euros and a transport performance of 7.2 billion freight ton kilometers in 2022, Lufthansa Cargo is one of the world's leading companies in the transport of airfreight. The company currently employs around 4,100 people worldwide. Lufthansa Cargo's focus is on the airport-to-airport business. The route network covers around 300 destinations in more than 100 countries, using both freighter aircraft and cargo capacity from passenger aircraft operated by Lufthansa, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, Eurowings Discover and SunExpress, as well as trucks. The majority of the cargo business is handled via Frankfurt Airport. Lufthansa Cargo is pursuing the goal of becoming the world's most environmentally friendly cargo airline. To achieve this, the company relies on state-of-the-art technologies and constant investments in the area of sustainability. In 2022, important milestones were reached, such as the investment in the continuous expansion of the B777F fleet, the expansion of short- and medium-haul networks with A321 freighters, and the continuation of the Sustainable Aviation Fuel program. In 2023, Lufthansa Cargo plans to successively equip its B777F fleet with Sharkskin technology, implement further digital services

and contribute to reducing CO2 emissions through sustainable logistics solutions. Lufthansa Cargo is a wholly owned subsidiary of Deutsche Lufthansa AG and the specialist for the logistics business of the Lufthansa Group.

## About Avflight

Avflight operates a network of strategically-located, full-service FBOs across North America and Europe. All Avflight locations provide full fueling and line-service operations as well as a wide variety of amenities. Customers range from corporate jet traffic to freight and cargo companies, as well as charter operations and small aircraft. Each Avflight location is staffed by experienced professionals who undergo continual training to ensure that each customer and aircraft receive the safest, most efficient and friendliest service. Avflight is part of the Avfuel-Branded Network of 675+ FBOs around the globe.

## Contacts



### **Nicole Mies**

Press Contact

Head of Communications & Corporate Social Responsibility  
press@lufthansa-cargo.com



### **Lufthansa Cargo Media Hotline**

Press Contact

press@lufthansa-cargo.com  
+49 69 696 72435



### **Katharina Stegmann**

Press Contact

Spokesperson

katharina.stegmann@dlh.de  
+49 69 696-72508



**Julia Leukel**

Press Contact

Spokesperson

[julia.leukel@dlh.de](mailto:julia.leukel@dlh.de)

+49 69 696-660138



**Jan Paulin**

Press Contact

Spokesperson

[jan.paulin@dlh.de](mailto:jan.paulin@dlh.de)

+49 69 696 10274