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Dramatic Structure Change at USPS



The United States Postal Service has announced a dramatic restructuring of its core functions and the appointment of a corporate leader from the private sector to head a division accounting for more than USD 70 billion of revenue.

The Postal Service has created two "focal points". The first of these groups all major shipping and mailing products in one division. The second creates an operation representing "the voice of the customer". This centralises consumer and business customer relationships and external and internal communications and integrates pricing into a single unit.

The Postal Service's Intelligent Mail Barcode activities are consolidated under the chief operating officer to focus on execution in the year ahead.

The structure has been created to capitalise on new competitive opportunities offered by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006. Announcing the changes, Postmaster General John E Potter said: "These are challenging times and it's critical that we take advantage of recent changes in federal law which give us the tools to move into the competitive environment."

The new Shipping and Mailing Services Division will be headed by Robert F Bernstock, who will be division president. It brings together product management, product development and commercial sales and will account for revenues of USD 70 billion.

Reporting to Mr Bernstock will be four senior vice presidents. Three of these vice president positions already exist for expedited shipping, ground shipping and sales; a newly created fourth position, senior vice president of mailing services, will be taken by David Shoenfeld, who formerly served as senior vice president of worldwide marketing at FedEx.

Mr Bernstock has some 30 years' experience of senior corporate leadership positions at well known American companies. Most recently, he has been chairman and chief executive officer at Securesheet Technologies and he also serves as a director on a number of public company boards.

"Bob is a proven leader and particularly well prepared to help us meet the challenges ahead," Mr Potter said. "This is a dramatic change in direction for the Postal Service as the structure we're putting in place will position us to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the new Postal law, while maintaining the viability of our core products."

Mr Potter said the Shipping and Mailing Services Division would have active and integrated roles in pricing, operational support, service enhancements, partnerships and investment activities.

The new customer relations organisation will be led by senior vice president Stephen Kearney, a Postal Service employee of 28 years, whose most recent position was vice president, pricing and classification.

Americas

Chicago Retains its *IPC Certificate of Excellence*

The United States Postal Service's international mail facility in Chicago has earned its second *IPC Certificate of Excellence* in international mail processing from the International Post Corporation (IPC).

"This recognition once again demonstrates that the Postal Service is meeting and surpassing its commitment to excellence across the entire organisation," said Paul Vogel, global business managing director and senior vice president.

The J. T. Weeker International Service Center (ISC) received its first, four-year certification in 2004 and was the first US Postal Service facility to do so. All five of the Postal Service's international centres have since received *IPC Certificates of Excellence*.

Certificates are awarded to international facilities that demonstrate top levels of quality, efficiency, teamwork and communications. Achieving certification involves on-site reviews by IPC to verify compliance and ongoing IPC validation that performance levels are maintained. IPC Head Of Operations Toni Schneider presented the award and recognised Chicago employees for their teamwork and dedication to excellence.



USPS Promotes Savings to eBay Sellers

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is building relationships with small businesses trading on eBay, explaining new pricing opportunities, online savings and volume discounts.

As sponsor of the eBay Live! 2008 convention in June, USPS held workshops and gave presentations to show small businesses new strategies and business solutions for online selling.

"We have a tremendous relationship with the eBay community and we're always working for ways to remain their shipper of choice," said Anita Bizzotto, executive vice president and chief marketing officer.

USPS is working on a payment solution that allows eBay buyers and sellers to stay on the eBay website to complete financial transactions or print Postal Service shipping labels online. From the end of August, customers will no longer have to migrate to the PayPal site to conclude business.

Information about free 90-minute workshops for those interested in learning how to start selling on eBay is available at www.usps.com/ebayday.

FedEx Forecasts Difficult Times Ahead

Costs of USD 891 million resulting from the decision to minimise use of the Kinko's brand contributed significantly to FedEx Corp's loss of USD 0.78 per diluted share in the fourth quarter ending May 31.

Excluding these, and a one-off USD 0.06 per diluted share benefit in the previous fourth quarter, FedEx said its earnings were USD 1.45 per diluted share compared with USD 1.90 last year.

"Record high fuel prices and the weak US economy dampened volume growth and substantially affected our bottom line," said Frederick W. Smith, FedEx Corp. chairman, president and chief executive officer.

Revenue for the quarter was up eight percent to USD 9.87 billion, but the company sustained an operating loss of USD 163 million on account of the Kinko's related charge. In the fourth quarter last year, FedEx achieved positive income of USD 1.01 billion.

Consolidated results for the full year revealed revenue up eight percent to USD 38 billion but operating income down by 37 percent to USD 2.08 billion.

The company said that earnings were difficult to predict in the light of volatile fuel prices and the uncertain economic outlook. It projected earnings of between USD 0.80 and USD 1.00 per diluted share in the first quarter.

The company is currently targeting fiscal 2009 earnings of USD 4.75 to USD 5.25 per diluted share. This guidance incorporates the current high fuel prices and the related impact on fuel surcharges, which are reducing demand for FedEx services and impacting yield across the company's transportation segments. This outlook assumes no additional increases to current fuel prices and no further weakening in the economy.

"The operating environment for fiscal 2009 is expected to be very difficult due to the weak US economy and extremely high fuel prices," said Alan B. Graf Jr, FedEx Corp executive vice president and chief financial officer.

He said the company would focus on reducing expenses and remaining cash flow positive, and would continue to improve the customer experience across its services.



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UPS Warns of Lower-than-Expected Earnings

United Parcel Service (UPS) has announced that it expects earnings per diluted share for the second quarter to be lower than originally anticipated at USD 0.83 to USD 0.88.

The company said that slow US economic growth and unprecedented increases in the cost of fuel had resulted in lower package volumes than expected and a reduction in take up of premium air services. The "anaemic" US economy was having a negative impact on inbound international package volume.

Second quarter results will be released on July 22.



Retailers Offer Postal Shipping Services

More than 2,000 shipping services retailers in the United States have signed up to the United States Approved Shipper Program to surpass USD forty million in sales since the scheme was set up two years ago.

Under the programme, retailers can offer postal shipping services alongside those from other express and parcel operators.

USPS Targets Legal Express Documents

The United States Postal Service has launched legal-sized Express Mail and Priority Mail envelopes to enable customers sending legal documents to choose expedited services.

The Postal Service points out that Express Mail and Priority Mail can be delivered to mailboxes, mail slots and PO Boxes, unlike packages despatched through other carriers.

DHL Starts Implementing Airlift Transfer Plan

DHL has started cutting back its use of United States airlift sub-contractor ABX Air in the first operational move in its phased transfer of North American volumes to United Parcel Service (UPS) (*Market Flash No 374*).

Volume carried by DHL's other US airlift partner, Astar Air Cargo, will also transfer to UPS. Astar pilots protested outside DHL's Florida head office and have filed an expedited grievance requesting a full investigation of the contract violations they claim would result from the agreement between DHL and UPS.

In Wilmington, Ohio, where DHL's US air hub is due to close, local politicians have asked DHL and parent Deutsche Post World Net to reconsider.

More than 8,000 jobs are threatened at Wilmington. Most of the workers at the hub have voted in favour of being represented by the Teamsters union, which recently sealed a national agreement with DHL.

DHL Express plans to cut 175 of 1,000 jobs at its US head office in Florida, according to press reports. It said affected employees were being given a sixty-day notice and would receive a two weeks' payment as severance regardless of seniority, in addition to a one week's payment for each year of service.

DHL Wins Multimillion Dollar Deal with KTM

DHL has announced the award of a new, two-year, multimillion-dollar agreement with motorcycle manufacturer KTM North America.

It is now the preferred overnight express shipping provider, delivering parts and accessories to KTM dealers across the US and Canada and providing automated tracking shipping and invoicing.

DHL will also be the official shipping provider for KTM racing teams.

UPS Burlington Campus Grows by a Third



United Parcel Service (UPS) Canada is expanding its strategic logistics campus at Burlington less than two years after it opened.

A new, third distribution centre on the site will support faster shipping turnaround. The campus provides a central supply chain facility for major national retailers. Increasing online shopping is driving UPS customer requirements for post sales service and returns management.

FedEx Aids Pilots Flying in Poor Visibility

FedEx Express has received certification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a new aircraft avionic system that improves pilots' situational awareness during takeoff and landing.

The system combines Honeywell International's Head Up Display (HUD) technology with the infrared Enhanced Flight Vision System from Elbit Systems to enhance pilot visibility in poor conditions.

The HUD interfaces with aircraft navigational and flight data systems to present a high-resolution display of flight guidance information. This is combined with an infrared video of the outside world displayed on a unit in the captain's view.

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FedEx Receives Plaudits as a Good Employer

FedEx has won recognition as Computerworld's "Best Place to Work in IT" Award. It has also won the Black Enterprise "40 Best Companies for Diversity" Award.

Velocity Wins Stage Stores Contract

US regional operator Velocity Express has won a USD thirty million-plus contract to provide store replenishment and inbound transport for speciality department store operator Stage Stores.

SkyPostal Gains Growth Funds for Latin America

Omega United dba SkyPostal Networks has completed private placement financing of USD ten million and plans to use the funds for expansion. SkyPostal's private mail network in Latin America, handles mail from European postal operators, publishers, mail consolidators, international mailers and financial institutions.

FedEx Express Extends in British Columbia

FedEx Express Canada has opened two facilities in British Columbia that include a new office, a customer service facility with a world service centre front counter, and a new sorting and warehouse installation.

Europe

DPWN Moves Postbank Closer to a Sale

Deutsche Post World Net (DPWN) has confirmed it is in negotiations for the possible sale of Postbank in which it holds a stake of fifty percent plus one share.

Postbank has fourteen million private customers and is not affected by the sub-prime crisis that is causing significant losses in other banks. It has a current market capitalisation of about EUR 9.4 billion which results in part from a steep rise in share price in recent months amid speculation over a sale.

DPWN announced on June 30 that it had entered "a more intensive phase of the exploratory process" and that discussions with potential partners were moving forward quickly and efficiently.

Postbank Chief Executive Officer, Wolfgang Klein has stepped down temporarily from the DPWN management board for reasons of good corporate governance.

Posten Chief Loses Confidence of Board

Erik Olsson will not become president and chief executive officer of the merged Posten AB/Post Danmark company.

In a statement issued on June 27, Posten said that its president and CEO had left the company owing to lack of confidence from the board. The surprise move meant that Posten had to appoint a temporary president and CEO, Lars G Nordström, to prepare for the integration of Post Danmark. Mr Nordström is a member of the board of Nordea, where he was president and CEO until 2007.

Efforts to recruit a permanent president and CEO for Posten have already begun. Mr Olsen has the right to twelve months' notice and during that time he will be at Posten's disposal.

DPWN Publishes its Sustainability Report



Deutsche Post World Net (DPWN) has issued its sustainability report, *Changing Ways* to spell out its focus on the environment, its employees and its wider social responsibility across the world.

In April, the company launched its GoGreen programme to improve its CO₂ efficiency by thirty percent by 2020 (*Market Flash No 374/Green Flash No 2*). This target covers both the company and its transport contractors.

DPWN's sustainability objective for employees is to become the employer of choice. For the past year, the company has been working on health protection through its group-wide corporate health policy. In addition, it has developed a compulsory road safety code. In an international initiative, it is promoting its search for logistics management recruits through a *Discover Logistics* programme.

Social responsibility is founded on DPWN's strategic partnership with the United Nations. This includes disaster relief and prevention: DHL Disaster Response Teams are on stand-by to support relief efforts in crisis regions.

The company is also involved in programmes to reduce child mortality, and with UNICEF, it has helped to reduce the number of malaria deaths in Kenya.

The 60-page sustainability report is printed on recycled paper, distributed through climate-neutral mailings and has the "Blauer Engel" environmental seal.

CombiTrans Joins Norway Post Logistics

Norway Post has acquired Swedish international road haulage company CombiTrans as part of a strategic plan to strengthen its logistics business.

Later this year, the postal group plans to combine its Nordic postal and logistics activities under a single brand, using the green logo colour of its express subsidiary, Box Group, for its corporate identity and retaining red for its Norwegian business.

The logistics business, covering express, parcels and freight, accounted for 45 percent of group revenues in 2007 and grew by 11.4 percent to EUR 1.5 billion, said Norway Post.

Logistics revenues in Sweden last year totalled SEK 2.5 billion. CombiTrans, with 105 employees, achieved operating profits (EBIT) of SEK 50 million in 2007 on revenues of SEK 540 million. Its haulage services cover the whole of Europe with particular focus on Greece, Turkey, the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

Mende Moves to Österreichische Post Logistics

Carl-Gerold Mende has moved from Royal Mail to Österreichische Post where he has taken responsibility for the parcels and logistics division. He is serving as a member of the management board for three years with an option to extend his contract for a further two years.

In addition to his role as director of the international division of Royal Mail letters, Mr Mende has worked for DHL and FedEx Express and was managing director of General Parcel Logistic.

Österreichische Post said its parcel and logistics division was of increased significance to the company. It has announced it will acquire the remaining 23.9 percent holding in German parcels company trans-o-flex.

In a separate announcement, trans-o-flex said it is expanding its distribution network for temperature-sensitive products, mainly pharmaceuticals, into Austria and Benelux.

Hermes Chief to Drive Growth from Board

Hartmut Ilek has started work this month as the new managing director of German business-to-consumer parcels company Hermes Logistics while former managing director Hanjo Schneider takes on board responsibility for building the company's European business-to-consumer parcels network.

Hermes entered the Austrian and Italian markets last year and integrated its United Kingdom affiliate, Parcelnet, into its network. The company claims a 22 percent share of the European business-to-consumer parcels market. Parcelnet aims for turnover of more than EUR 300 million in 2008 and plans to set up a ParcelShop network similar to the one in Germany.

Mr Schneider is to take up a position on the executive board of Hermes' parent company, Otto Group, in February when he will take over responsibility for the services division as well as development of the European parcels network.



PostFinance Account Targets Richer Clients

Swiss Post's banking division, PostFinance, is to launch a new account service specifically for customers with substantial assets and to adjust the cost of its postal account.

From August 1, the new "Plus Set" for wealthier customers will provide a PostFinance card, account statements, paper or electronic payment orders and standing orders. Incentives include free cash withdrawal from ATMs in Switzerland and abroad, the option to have multiple accounts managed as part of the Plus Set and reduced issuing commission on the purchase of funds. For account holders with assets totalling more than CHF 25,000, PostFinance will waive the monthly management fee of CHF twelve.

Also from August, the monthly management fee for the postal account will rise by CHF 1 to CHF 3 and a CHF 1 fee for a monthly statement will be introduced (the service is currently free). Other free services such as arrangement of standing orders will also attract fees. Charges for online banking will rise for customers investing less than CHF 7,500.

Royal Mail Backs Direct Marketing Further

United Kingdom direct mail production managers are now able to telephone a dedicated Royal Mail helpline to find out the answers to queries on postal weight and format, pricing, artwork approval for PPI, and how to save money on packaging and postage.

Information about Royal Mail's extra mailing services, such as help with campaign management and approval for mail campaigns, is also available over the telephone.

The helpline is a further demonstration of the importance Royal Mail attaches to its direct marketing business.

In a separate initiative, Royal Mail is offering periodical publishers a discounted rate to benchmark their titles via the Royal Mail APA (Association of Publishing Agencies) Advantage Study.

The study, launched in 2005, tracks magazines' effectiveness against other titles in their sector. It currently includes seventy titles and has conducted 20,000 customer interviews.

Royal Mail's financial incentive, said to be worth up to GBP 2,000, is designed to strengthen its relationship with the APA.



Post Offices Extends its Currency Network

The United Kingdom Post Office is extending its foreign currency services to a network of ATM cash machines and sales counters in shops operated by high street retailer WH Smith.

A trial of ATMs supplied by banking partner Bank of Ireland has begun at thirteen post offices. Euros and United States dollars are available commission-free to customers using their debit cards.

Post Office released figures showing that British travellers withdrew GBP 7.1 billion from cash machines abroad in 2007. "Holidaymakers can make real savings by avoiding all the charges and commission associated with using overseas cash machines abroad, and have more cash to enjoy on holiday instead," said Helen Warburton, head of Post Office travel services.

In a separate move aimed at capitalising on the success of its foreign currency services, Post Office is installing bureaux de change kiosks in fifty WH Smith shops, which are open seven days a week.

UK Postal Union Votes to Plan More Strikes

United Kingdom postal union the Communication Workers Union voted at its conference in June in favour of more strikes at Royal Mail.

The resolution passed by delegates authorised the union executive to begin gearing up for strikes. Protests outside the September conference of the UK ruling Labour Party are another option.

A major strike in 2007 caused significant financial and service quality losses for Royal Mail.

Royal Mail Workers Support a New Charity

Royal Mail has announced its new charity partner, children and young person's organisation Barnardo's, following a ballot by its employees.

Kay Allen, Royal Mail Group head of social action and inclusion said: "As a large organisation with people working in every town and city in the UK we were looking to partner a UK wide charity so that everyone can get involved and make a contribution locally, regardless of where they work."

Royal Mail Group will provide grants to top up funds raised by its employees. Barnardo's replaces the group's Help the Hospices after a three-year partnership which ended in March.

Itella Trial Reveals High Cost for Parcel Kiosk

Itella has completed a successful operational trial of an automated parcel kiosk in Helsinki but found that costs were higher than expected. It is now considering whether it will include automated kiosks in its parcel service provision.



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Itella to Take Over Bergen Logistics Operator

Itella Logistics is to take over full ownership of national and international operator Universal Spedisjon Bergen in which it currently holds a fifty percent stake.

The Finnish company first entered Norway in 2006 when it acquired Universal Spedisjon in Oslo, Kristiansand, Stavanger and Trondheim. It sees the acquisition in Bergen as a strategic move to strengthen its position in Norway's logistics market.

DHL Parcel Offers Proof of ID and Age

DHL Parcel in Germany is offering customers an optional service to provide proof of identity and age verification for shipments containing expensive or sensitive goods.

At delivery, DHL couriers can cross-check recipients' identity cards with the identity provided by the shipper and record personal data in their hand-held scanners. A further, age check can confirm that the recipient is above any minimum age fixed by the shipper.

DHL Parcel said internet ordering is relatively anonymous, however, both shippers and recipients are increasingly keen that products such as mobile phones, computer games, videos and pharmaceuticals do not fall into the wrong hands.

"With the identity and age verification we ensure from now on that these parcels are only handed over personally to the recipient," said Andrej Busch, DHL Parcel Germany board member.

Bartolini Upgrades its Italian Depot Network

Italian express company Bartolini is extending and upgrading its depot network.

The company opened new depots in Rome and in Termoli and Teramo near Pescara on the Adriatic coast during May and June. In April, it moved its Turin South operations to a more modern facility.

DPD Supports Growth in the Baltic and CIS



DPD is supporting its growth in the Baltic region and plans investment of EUR fifty million in Kazakhstan and the Ukraine on the back of 41 percent revenue growth in Russia last year.

In May, DPD opened a parcel sorting centre capable of handling 2,000 parcels an hour at the Lithuanian port of Klaipeda to process international imports for distribution in Eastern Europe and the CIS region.

The company now has three hubs, 29 depots and 540 vehicles operating in the Baltic countries where import volumes increased by forty percent in 2007 to about ten million parcels.

In Russia, the company rebranded from Bizpak and Armadillo to DPD Russia and plans expansion in the CIS region. Its joint owners, La Poste's GeoPost and Turkish company Yurtiçi Kargo, will invest EUR fifty million between 2008 and 2012 in Kazakhstan and the Ukraine where DPD businesses are already operational.

Cooperation for Russian Post and Aeroflot

Russian Post has signed a major cooperation agreement with airline Aeroflot that provides both faster mail and express transport and a new product line for post offices.

The two companies will coordinate their operations in order to speed up mail handling at airports and increase the volume of mail transported by Aeroflot and its SkyTeam alliance partners. They will expand the domestic mail air transport network to keep up with demand in the north of Russia, Siberia and the Far East.

In addition, Russian post offices will begin selling Aeroflot passenger tickets and the two partners will look for projects, including joint advertising, that can leverage both their networks.

ParcelXchange Drop Box Moves into France

French before 8 A.M. parts delivery company Ciblex is trialling the ParcelXchange "intelligent drop box" from the UK's Business Direct Group.

ParcelXchange is a modular locker system that provides access, 24 hours a day, for both collection and delivery of goods. Ciblex already uses lockers but felt that the real time reporting and secure ATM access provided by ParcelXchange would help both its business-to-business and consumer parcels activity.

Business Direct began offering ParcelXchange to operators outside the UK last year.

BIEK Forecasts Moderate Express Growth

The German International Express and Courier Services Association (BIEK) has said that operators expect only moderate growth this year after five percent growth in revenue and volume in 2007.

BIEK's new president, Gunnar Uldall, criticised Deutsche Post's VAT exemption for letters up to 2kg and parcels up to 20kg. He suggested a compromise solution: a continuing VAT exemption limited to on private and business mailings of up to fifty letters.

Romanian Couriers Seek Strength in Merger

Two Romanian courier companies, Curiero and TCE Logistica, plan to merge and rebrand as RTC Logistica.

TCE's owner, the RTC group, will hold a seventy percent stake in the merged company while Curiero's owner, Marchessa SA, will hold most of the remaining shares.

The two companies said their merger was designed to strengthen their competitive position in the country's rapidly consolidating express and parcels market. They are targeting combined annual revenue of EUR 30 million this year.

Customs Pre-Clearance with DHL Abu Dhabi

DHL Express has signed an agreement with Abu Dhabi Customs for an electronic system to provide pre-clearance for import goods to the United Arab Emirates.

The new "Gold Card" programme allows customers to use DHL's EDI solution to transmit shipment information electronically and receive customs clearance confirmation prior to the goods' arrival.

Aramex Launches Identity as Global Player



Middle East logistics company Aramex has unveiled a new corporate image and a new mission slogan: Delivery Unlimited.

The new identity rolled out in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Jordan in June full, global rebranding is due for completion by the end of the year.

Aramex said the new identity is in keeping with its rapid growth into a major player in global logistics with revenues of USD 485 million last year.

The company won two key awards for third party logistics and corporate social responsibility at the Middle East's Supply Chain and Transport Awards (SCATA), organised by publisher ITP Business. Aramex was the first company in the region to issue a sustainability report.

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GLS in Deal with Turkish Partner

Royal Mail parcels company GLS has improved its coverage of Turkey in a network partnership deal with MNG Kargo, which will feed parcels from Turkey into the GLS European network.

Flexible Delivery from Express-Parcel Service

GLS Slovenia has launched a next day express service, "Express-Parcel", to offer guaranteed delivery by 17.00 hours. Additional options for delivery by 10.00 hours, 12.00 hours or between specified two-hour periods, are also available.

Express Operators Look for German Acquisitions

United Parcel Service and FedEx have both indicated that they are open to making acquisitions in Germany as part of their international growth strategies.

Roberts Boosts Capacity with E-Kurier

Time critical freight company Roberts Europe has formed a partnership with German-based online freight capacity platform e-kurier to gain access to spare capacity offered by e-kurier's 1,800 German and European members.

DHL Russia Extends its Service Reach

DHL Russia is expanding the geographical reach of its "Domestic Express" time definite services to 10,000 new city pairs.

MRW Expands and Offers Special Service

Spanish domestic express carrier MRW has opened four franchised operations in Barcelona, Badojoz (Extremadura), Segorbe (Valencia) and Villajoyosa (Alicante) and launched an express delivery service for live animals on the island of Menorca.

Post Office Growth Bond

The United Kingdom Post Office has launched a one-year growth bond paying 7.05 percent for a minimum investment of GBP 500.

DHL's Economy Select Launches in Middle East

DHL Express has launched a day-definite, business-to-business service in the Middle East offering a more cost-effective solution for heavier shipments. DHL Economy Select offers door-to-door delivery and online tracking to businesses in sectors such as engineering, automotive and oil and gas.

TNT's Top Call Centre in Middle East Awards

TNT has beaten applications from companies in finance, telecoms and insurance as well as other logistics operators to win the Middle East Call Centre Award 2008.

FedEx Ranked in Customer First Contest

FedEx Express achieved 30th place out of 100 companies participating in the "Germany's Customer First Champions 2008" contest commissioned by the University of St Gallen, German newspaper Handelsblatt, Steria Mummert Consulting and ServiceRating.

TNT Adds Capacity To and From Italy

TNT is adding capacity at its Italian air hub at Bologna and improving links to Sicily with the introduction of a new B737 aircraft on its Liege-Bologna-Catania route. This increases air capacity to and from Italy by sixty percent, TNT said.

Flights Open Up in-Night Distribution for TNT

TNT is offering in-night distribution in the Nordic region following the launch of dedicated flights between Brussels, Jönköping (Sweden) and Helsinki, and two feeder routes linking Oslo and Billnd, Denmark, to Jönköping.



Asia-Pacific

NZ Post in Australian Joint Venture with DHL

New Zealand Post has formed an express joint venture in Australia with Deutsche Post World Net (DPWN) to build on the success of a similar joint venture in New Zealand with DHL Express.

The new company, Express Couriers Australia Pty Limited (ECA), brings together six regional businesses, three of which are owned by New Zealand Post. They will be interconnected to form an express courier network covering more than eighty percent of Australia's populated area but they will continue to operate as stand-alone businesses in their own markets.

New Zealand Post group chief executive John Allen said New Zealand Post and DHL Express had completed a series of transactions between them and with other parties to form ECA. The transactions result in a one-off gain of between AUD twenty million and AUD 25 million for New Zealand Post

ECA will be governed by a board of equal representation from the two joint venture partners.

Japan Post Plans Emission-Free Fleet

Japan Post Service plans to switch its entire fleet of 21,000 short-distance delivery vehicles to zero emission electric vehicles this business year.

It is discussing feasibility with manufacturers and battery makers. The speed of the electric vehicles, the infrastructure for recharging and other factors will determine whether Japan Post uses some petrol-electric hybrid vehicles as an interim measure.

FedEx Improves Chinese Domestic Service

FedEx has announced service enhancements in China to mark its one-year anniversary of launching a domestic service in the country.

It is now offering next morning delivery by 10.30 hours in nine major cities and later cut-off times for intra-region shipments in the Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta regions.

"FedEx will continue to expand its domestic service to more second and third-tier cities in China to serve every customer that needs it. In fact, as of July 1, Wenzhou and Taizhou customers will be able to take advantage of next-morning and next-day delivery service," said Jimmy Chen, regional vice president, domestic service.

DHL Brings IT Functionality to Asia-Pacific

DHL is installing Quintiq parcel and express planning and scheduling software in Asia-Pacific to improve customer service and reduce its carbon footprint.

It is also offering its electronic shipping service, DHL eMailShip, throughout the region via Microsoft Office.

Customers can download the application free from Microsoft Office Online. DHL's collaboration with Microsoft Office allows users to combine the eMailShip template with a familiar application.

New US Gateways for Asian Shippers

FedEx Trade Networks has opened two new gateways in the United States to offer customers in Asia more options when shipping goods to multiple US destinations.

FedEx Trade Networks Ocean-Ground Distribution combines FedEx Trade Networks ocean freight forwarding and customs brokerage services with the US transportation and delivery services of FedEx Freight, FedEx National LTL, FedEx Ground, or FedEx Express.

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Merger Could Form Chinese Logistics Group

Sinotrans Ltd, the Hong Kong-based listed subsidiary of the Sinotrans Group, said in a statement, that its parent company is considering a possible merger with China Yangtze Transportation Group, and is in discussions on the key aspects.

According to reports from China, a merged group could operate under the name China Logistics Group and would be a national logistics operator with activities ranging from express (through the DHL-Sinotrans joint venture), freight forwarding and warehousing to river and ocean shipping. Activities could then be reorganised between Sinotrans Ltd and the separate, listed company Sinotrans Shipping Ltd.

Kiwibank Appoints Economics Adviser

New Zealand Post's Kiwibank has appointed Donal Curtin of Economics New Zealand Ltd as an adviser and spokesman for the bank on issues affecting the economy, interest rates and general banking.

Kiwibank chief executive Sam Knowles said the appointment of Mr Curtin was "a further and significant step forward in the development of the bank." Mr Curtin was an extremely experienced economist with a profound knowledge of the New Zealand economy, he said.

NZ Post Seeks to Create a Postcode Culture

New Zealand Post is working to gain universal usage of its postcodes, introduced two years ago, in order to automate its mail processing.

Since July 1, eligibility for the discounted bulk mail rate for high volume mailings has been dependent on the correct use of postcodes by mailers.

>>In Brief - Asia-Pacific

Japan Post Sells ING Life Insurance

Japan Post Group has begun distributing ING Life insurance products in a partnership that brings a third new product to the range that Japan Post has been authorised to sell since the privatisation process began in October last year.

Post Office Outsourcing Suggested

Japan Post Holdings plans to outsource some of its post office operations to Secom Co, the country's biggest security services company, in an attempt to maintain its rural network, according to press reports.

Vietnam to Create Separate Postal Business

Vietnam's government is updating its postal laws to separate postal services from telecommunications.

time:matters Opens Branch Office in Singapore

German special service provider for courier, sameday and emergency logistics, time:matters, is continuing its internationalisation strategy with the establishment of its first Asian branch in Singapore. More Asian locations are planned for the near future.

TNT Launches New Services in Asia-Pacific

TNT has launched freight services for time-sensitive and heavy shipments in southeast Asia: Express Freight, Economy Freight and Freight Plus. The move is part of a EUR 100 million investment.

New Zealand Post Sells Messaging Business

New Zealand Post has sold its e-mail and text marketing business, MessageMedia, to Marketing Impact Limited for a sum less than NZD 250,000.

UPS to Buy Out Korea Express from Joint Venture

United Parcel Service (UPS) is to acquire Korea Express Co's (KEC) interest in the UPS-KEC joint venture and to transform it into a wholly-owned subsidiary that will allow it to grow its business in Korea.

DHL Opens New Drop-Off Centre in Japan

DHL Japan has opened a new package drop-off centre in the Sakae business district in central Nagoya under its agreement with Digital Printing Studio Inc. The new centre will accept documents and packages dropped off at the retail outlet by DHL account holders.

DHL Wins Awards for Service and Quality

DHL has won three awards as Best Express Service Provider for Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand at the 2008 Frost & Sullivan ASEAN Transportation & Logistics Awards. DHL Indonesia also emerged as the Best IT Electronics Logistics Service Provider.

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