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E-Postbrief integrated into Europe's largest corporate network

Deutsche Post hopes to increase take-up for its secure electronic letter, E-Postbrief, in business-to-business (B2B) communications following the product's integration with the SAP business platform.

The integration is being achieved using SAP Information Exchange by Crossgate AG, which is a German operator of B2B communications platforms.

Crossgate will link more than 40,000 companies worldwide. Its network will allow business partners, customers and suppliers to exchange process data electronically via digital media.

By using E-Postbrief, companies will no longer need to scan or type letters or faxes in their B2B communications. The system links to SAP's enterprise resource system and makes stock and order quantity information available.

One SAP user, retail group EDEKA, is implementing E-Postbrief to communicate electronically with its suppliers. It will

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integrate E-Postbrief into its existing electronic communications platform which is based on SAP's Information Exchange by Crossgate.

Previously the platform required EDEKA's business partners to have EDI capabilities; now they can simply register online for an E-Postbrief address in order to communicate with EDEKA.

The Bayer Leverkusen football team will use E-Postbrief for both business-to-consumer (B2C) communications with fans and club members and B2B communications with business partners. It is considering also using E-Postbrief for binding ticket reservations and sales of team merchandise.

Adoption of E-Postbrief by high-profile customers such as Bayer Leverkusen is just one aspect of Deutsche Post's intense marketing effort for its secure electronic letter. Its claim that E-Postbrief is "as secure and legally binding as a letter" has, however, been banned by a Bonn court, which ruled that some documents require a handwritten signature.

Announcing that it would appeal, Deutsche Post said it has always acknowledged there were a few occasions that required written communication; however, it claimed that the overwhelming majority of legal business could be done using the E-Postbrief, including various types of contracts.



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Canada Post's pre-tax earnings fall in 2010

Canada Post's earnings before tax in 2010 dropped by 27% year-on-year to CA\$233m.

Letter mail volume was 4.5% lower than in 2009 and the volume of transactional mail, parcels and direct mail was 1.8% lower overall.

The figures, published in the Canada Post annual report on 17 August, show that the pension plan presented a financial burden on the corporation. It had a liability of CA\$16bn and a pension insolvency deficit of CA\$3.2bn at the end of the year. Canada Post contributed CA\$746m to the plan in 2010, including CA\$425m in special payments related to the solvency deficit.

Canada Post accounted for almost 80% of Canada Post Group's revenues in 2010. Other companies in the group are express operator Purolator, which is 91% owned and which achieved profits of CA\$72m in 2010 on revenues of CA\$1.5bn; logistics operator SCI Group and IT services company Innovapost, which is a joint venture with CGI Group.

US Postal Service suffers US\$5.7bn loss in nine months

The United States Postal Service ended its third fiscal quarter to end June with a net loss of US\$3.1bn. Net losses for the nine months amounted to US\$5.7bn.

During the quarter operating revenue was US\$15.8bn, 1.7% lower than the same period last year. Mailing Services revenue was US\$13.6bn, 3.1% lower than the third quarter of 2010. First-class mail revenue declined by 8.7% to US\$7.8bn and periodicals revenue dropped 3% year-on-year to US\$454m.

There were some revenue gains within the mailing services division. Standard mail revenue increased by 1.7% to US\$4.2bn and package services revenue rose by 3.2% to US\$354m.

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Shipping services, including express mail and priority mail, increased their revenue in the quarter by 7.3% compared with the third quarter last year to US\$2.2bn. Shipping services volume was up by 5.9% to 359m pieces.

Total mail volume declined to 39.8bn pieces compared with 40.9bn last year, a 2.6% drop led by a decline first-class mail volume.

The number of hours worked was 3.1% lower in the third quarter year-on-year as a result of an aggressive cost reduction programme and organisational restructuring. More than 1,850 administrative employees took voluntary retirement during the quarter.

With the Postal Service experiencing a severe cash crisis and being unable able to make a mandatory US\$5.5bn pre-payment to the retiree health benefit fund in September, it is calling for a new set of legislative measures in an effort to return to financial stability.

The proposed legislative changes centre on giving the Postal Service power in three main areas: to establish its

own health benefits programme; to administer its own retirement scheme; and to have freedom to adjust the size of its workforce to match operational needs and the changing marketplace.

The proposals build on previous suggestions USPS already communicated to the US Congress: the elimination of congressionally-mandated retiree health benefit pre-payments; access to overpayments made to the Federal Employees Retirement System; and authority for the Postal Service to determine the frequency of mail delivery (it wants to move from six to five weekly delivery days by eliminating Saturday delivery).

Announcing its new proposals the Postal Service pointed out it has removed US\$12bn in costs from its operations in the past four fiscal years. However, decline in first-class mail volume, cost increases and a mandate from Congress to pre-fund retiree health benefits have created a financial burden that cost reduction alone will never be able to lift, it said.

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Dynamex acquisition boosts TransForce revenue

Canadian transport group TransForce saw its second quarter parcel and express revenues rise significantly year on year following its takeover of US-based Dynamex in February this year.

The Montréal-based company doubled its half-year revenues from parcels and express to CA\$374m. Operating profit rose to CA\$25.9m from CA\$15.8m in the same period last year. Margin dropped back, however, to 6.9% from 8.6% last year.

For the group as a whole, half-year revenue was CA\$1.2bn and earnings before interest and tax were CA\$74m. Reported revenues will increase further when the business generated by newly acquired DHL Express Canada's domestic business is included in accounts.

Good profit result for UPS in second quarter

UPS has announced consolidated revenues of US\$13.19bn in the second quarter, up from US\$12.20bn in the same period last year. Group operating profit was US\$1.7bn, up from US\$1.4bn last year, and operating margin was 12.9%.

In the United States domestic market revenue was US\$7.74bn, up from US\$7.27bn in the second quarter last year. Operating profit, adjusted for a US\$15m negative impact from a real estate transaction, was 31% higher at US\$981m. The adjusted operating margin rose to 12.7% from 10.3% in the second quarter of last year.

The international package division achieved a 13.3% revenue increase to US\$3.14bn and an operating profit of US\$497m. The company said export volume increased by 8.1% with Europe and China continuing strong growth trends.

The supply chain and freight division saw revenue grow to US\$2.32bn from US\$2.16bn in the same period last year. Operating profit was US\$187m on an adjusted basis, 41% more than in the same period last year. Reported operating profit for the division was US\$235m. It included the positive impact of a US\$48m real estate transaction.

'Village Post Offices' will soften the blow of planned closures

The United States Postal Service has announced a concept for a new type of post office in the United States as it begins customer-needs studies of about 3,700 existing retail outlets under its network rightsizing programme.

The new concept, 'Village Post Offices', is designed for rural communities. It would see postal services offered by local businesses such as pharmacies and grocery stores which would replace Postal Service-owned post offices. USPS believes that as customers' buying habits change, the need to maintain the current network of 32,000 retail offices is diminishing. The Postal Service believes that third-party retailers, including the planned new Village Post Office retailers, will provide an acceptable, more flexible alternative.

Already more than 35% of the Postal Service's retail revenue is derived from expanded access locations such as grocery and office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, automated teller machines and the Postal Service web site.



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US Postal Service begins a new round of contract talks

Contract negotiations have begun with two more US postal unions, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU). Together these two unions represent 247,000 US Postal Service employees; NALC members working as letter carriers delivering primarily in urban areas, and NPMHU members working in mail processing plants and post offices.

Opening negotiations, the Postal Service warned that new contracts would have to address labour costs and allow for speedy downsizing if the organisation were to remain solvent. Wages and employee benefits account for around 80% of total costs. Both unions' contracts expire on 20 November this year.

A new four-year contract is already in place with the American Postal Workers Union (APWU). The Postal Service said that that contract would bring more than US\$3.8bn in savings, long-term structural changes and enhanced work-force flexibility.

Negotiations with a fourth union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, have broken down and will now be resolved through arbitration.

Correios Brazil's profits rise as it plans an independent future

Brazil's Correios recorded a net profit of BRL499.65m in the first half year, an increase of 48.2% on the same period last year. Revenues rose by more than 11%.

The company gained a new legal status in May this year as a precursor to further changes allowing it to operate independently and diversify its services.

In August the Brazilian House of Representatives approved a draft postal reform law enabling Correios to modernise, operate abroad, establish partnerships and move into new service areas such as electronic postal services, integrated logistics and financial services.

To boost growth the company announced plans to invest BRL4bn in infrastructure modernisation and service improvement. It plans to hire 10,000 new workers, expand its branch network, increase its delivery fleet and invest in technology.

Health sector expert joins UPS board

UPS has appointed Dr Candace Kendl, a senior figure from the biopharmaceutical industry, to its board in order to enhance its expertise in a sector it has targeted for growth.



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Kendl is the co-founder and former chairman and chief executive of Kendle International, a global research organisation delivering clinical development and clinical trial services to biopharmaceutical companies.

UPS has made healthcare logistics—including specialist transportation of clinical trial materials—a strategic priority. Currently the company operates 30 healthcare facilities around the world with more than 372,000m² of dedicated distribution space.

Regulatory compliance of concern to healthcare execs

Healthcare reform, changes in healthcare legislation and greater regulation are the biggest business concerns for the healthcare industry around the world, according to the fourth annual 'Pain in the (Supply) Chain' survey commissioned by UPS.

The survey questioned senior healthcare supply chain executives at pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies in the United States, Europe and Asia.

The survey found that concerns over regulatory compliance, product integrity and security arise from the extended supply chains now in place owing to globalisation and the more specialised products on the market.

Almost three-quarters of respondents (73%) said regulatory compliance was their number one concern; 61% were concerned about product security and 56% worried about product damage or spoilage.

Managing supply chain costs was the second greatest concern overall; only 42% of global executives surveyed in 2011 reported success in supply chain cost management. In the United States, however, more respondents, 53%, felt they had been successful in controlling costs.



FedEx renews its support for the Flying Eye Hospital

FedEx has announced a new five-year commitment to support the ORBITAL International organisation dedicated to saving people around the world from blindness.

The company is allocating cash and in-kind resources worth US\$5.37m. In addition FedEx Express is donating an MD-10 aircraft to be ORBITAL's third-generation Flying Eye Hospital.

The fully functioning Flying Eye Hospital brings eye care professionals to developing countries. From the hospital the medical team provides surgical training for local doctors, nurses, biomedical engineers and technicians passing on skills needed to prevent and treat avoidable causes of blindness.

The new funding allocation from FedEx follows on from its initial US\$5.5m five-year commitment to ORBITAL in 2006.

FedEx Express transports urgently-needed medical supplies to ORBITAL clinics free of charge and makes its training simulator available to train volunteer pilots.

FedEx Express pilots volunteer to fly the current eye hospital and train other volunteer pilots. The company's mechanics provide maintenance support, and employees around the world volunteer to work with ORBITAL as interpreters, patient escorts and assistants to patient screeners.

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FedEx flies in food aid for Somalia

FedEx Express delivered approximately 91 tonnes of high-nutrient food to Nairobi, Kenya on 22 August in support of the UNICEF programme to feed severely malnourished children in south and central Somalia. The company announced it would also donate a second flight.

New US cargo security rules due in September

A final set of US air cargo security rules is due to come into effect on 19 September covering both freight and passenger aircraft. The current Certified Cargo Screening Program was established in September 2009 and in August 2010, the US introduced a requirement to screen 100% of all air cargo carried on passenger aircraft departing from US airports.

FedEx declares dividend

FedEx Corp has declared a quarterly cash dividend of US\$0.13 per share on its common stock, payable on 03 October to stockholders of record at close of business on 12 September 2011.

More addresses receive UPS time-sensitive delivery

UPS has expanded the locations that can receive its Next Day Air and Early AM package services to an additional 1,300 ZIP codes in the United States.

FedEx Freight raises rates

FedEx Freight will introduce a 6.75% general rate increase from 06 September for shipments in the contiguous United States, between the US and Canada and in Canada and also for the US portion of shipments between the US and Mexico. The fuel surcharge remains unchanged.

USPS gains award for international express

The Universal Postal Union has presented a Silver Award to the United States Postal Service for its "outstanding" international express mail service. The Postal Service is a member of the Kahala Post Group whose services are based on the post's EMS express service. The award resulted from a rating across five categories including on-time delivery and customer service response time.

FedEx buys Mexican domestic operator Multipack

FedEx Express has acquired Mexican domestic operator Multipack (Servicios Nacionales Mupa SA de CV) in order to provide a wider range of domestic and international services to customers. The newly acquired company's operations include a pick-up and delivery network, warehousing and logistics services, 48 distribution centres, 13 warehouses and more than 500 retail outlets all of which will be fully integrated into the FedEx business.

Asia-Pacific

NZ Post restructures its international services

New Zealand Post is restructuring its international services from 01 October.

The company will cease to offer its international economy letter for which volumes have fallen below a viable level.

All letter mail will travel via the international air mail service, prices of which will remain unchanged.

New Zealand Post will expand its international economy courier service from 25 to 32 country destinations. It will also increase the maximum size of parcel that can be sent via international economy courier. The service provides a cheaper alternative to the global international express courier service.

A revised pricing structure for parcels will be introduced to reflect the cost of international transport, according to New Zealand Post.

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Australian post offices to offer Rural Bank services

Australia Post is in talks with the country's Rural Bank to finalise plans for Rural Bank to offer its services from post offices in regional and rural locations.

The two companies plan to allow customers to open to Rural Bank deposit accounts at 1,400 post offices. In addition, 130 post offices in agricultural areas will offer business customers Rural Bank loans. These will be negotiated by dedicated Rural Bank business development managers who will support the Australia Post network locally.

The planned agreement will extend Rural Bank's reach in regional Australia. The partners intend to provide Rural Bank customers with access to their accounts through the Bank@Post service available at 3,287 post offices.

DHL consolidates its Asia road service offer

DHL has consolidated its Asian road freight operation into a single portfolio comprising three services: a less-than-truck-load (LTL) scheduled service, DHL AsiaConnect; a full-load service, DHL AsiaLine; and a bespoke service, DHL AsiaNet.

The new LTL AsiaConnect service is aimed at companies with smaller or varying volumes. It will make scheduled stops in Singapore, Johor Bahru, Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Bangkok, along the DHL Global Forwarding network.

The company said the LTL service would deliver door-to-door from Singapore to Penang overnight and from Singapore or Kuala Lumpur to Bangkok in two days. DHL plans to extend the service to Vietnam, Cambodia and China.



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Challenging times for Australian exporters: DHL report

Australian exporters are experiencing challenging times owing to the strength of the Australian dollar and the impact of natural disasters both at home and in Japan.

The latest annual survey of Australian exporters, commissioned by DHL, reveals that only 42% of respondents saw orders increase in the past 12 months and only 41% anticipated increased orders in the coming year.

One cause for optimism, however, is the growth in e-commerce; half the exporters surveyed reported an increase in the level of online commerce they had conducted in the past year. Although competition has increased, e-commerce is making it easier to reach a wider market.

UPS round-the-world flight serves China's Chengdu

UPS has launched a daily 'round-the-world' flight into Chengdu, China in order to expand further its connections between Asia and Europe.

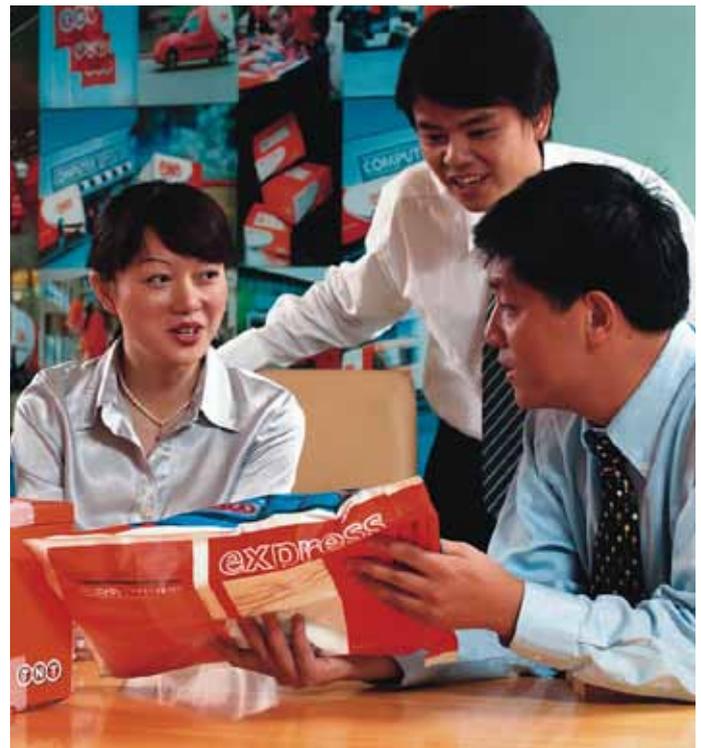
The MD-11 aircraft will originate at the UPS European hub in Cologne and stop in Warsaw before flying on to Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport and continuing to the UPS Asia hub in Shanghai.

With the Chengdu flight, UPS will connect Europe and Asia via a total of 24 flights a week. The company serves 330 cities in China and operates 200 weekly flights connecting China to markets worldwide.

Australia Post/Qantas joint ventures merge networks

The two Australia Post/Qantas joint ventures Star Track Express and Australian air Express (AaE) have started to merge their networks, co-locating their air freight depots across Australia. A single management structure is in place and the sales, customer service and marketing teams of the two businesses are being combined.

The joint venture partners announced earlier this year that Star Track Express would become the customer-facing



side of the merged business offering air and road express services. Freight operator AaE would be repositioned as an air capacity provider.

The two brands will remain for the immediate future, although a review is underway. The overall aim is to leverage the scale, capacity and service capability of both businesses to create the "largest domestic express service provider in Australia", according to Star Track Express CEO Stephen Cleary.

TNT opens Asia-Pacific Fashion Hub

TNT Express has opened its Asia-Pacific Fashion Hub in Hong Kong's Kwai Chung Container Terminal to further its strategy to support the fashion and lifestyle sectors globally.

The 9,205m² hub will serve Japan, Korea, China and Singapore and is linked to TNT Express's integrated air and road networks. The facility will offer customers tailor-made supply chain management including just-in-time and just-enough services to reduce costs and optimise inventory management.

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Freightways reports profit growth

New Zealand domestic express operator Freightways improved its operating profit by 5% year on year to NZ\$57m. Net profit was up 7% to NZ\$31m and revenues rose 7% to NZ\$353m.

The company attributed its growth to recovery of its core express business and profits from its information management division which rolled out across Australia during the twelve-month period.

The express package and business mail division had operating revenue of NZ\$278m, 5% higher than the previous year, and operating profits of NZ\$45m, a 4% increase.

The information management division produced a 15% rise in operating revenue to NZ\$76m and a 13% increase in operating profit to NZ\$17m. The division operates online and data security services, archive security and document destruction.

India's Blue Dart sees revenue rise in Q2

Indian express company Blue Dart increased its revenue by more than 33.8% to INR3.7bn in the second quarter to end June. Profit after tax for the period was INR340.1m

DHL, which owns 81% of Blue Dart, is interested in buying out the minority shareholders and delisting the company from the Mumbai Stock Exchange.

Gati increases full year profits by 13%

Indian express operator Gati increased its consolidated revenues in the year to end June by 30% to INR12.1bn while earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation rose 13% to INR989m. Net profit was up 49% to INR140m.

The listed company's core express business increased its volume year on year by 28% to 55m packages, improving revenue by 24% to INR8.14bn and operating profits by 14% to INR810m.

The company increased its use of rail transport during the year, operating 51 parcel trains a month and carrying almost 20% of its express volume by rail. The company also expanded its e-commerce and logistics services.

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New Zealand mail services return to normal

Heavy snow in Wellington and Auckland during August disrupted mail delivery, but New Zealand Post reported on 17 August that services were returning to normal in most parts to the country. The storm brought the first snow to fall in the country since the 1970s.

New Zealand Post supports literacy project

New Zealand Post is supporting a literacy project to distribute boxes of 50 assorted books by New Zealand authors to communities across the country. Literacy Aotearoa is running the programme to distribute more than 2,400 books

Australia Post helps re-equip emergency services

Australia Post has donated AU\$600,000 in a national programme to purchase replacement equipment for State Emergency Service (SES) units most affected by natural disasters earlier this year.

Customs Union prompts Russia-Kazakhstan service

DHL Express has launched an air service between the capitals of Russia and Kazakhstan with a one-day transit time for express shipments. The launch follows the creation of a Customs Union between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus so that goods can be delivered within the region without customs clearance.

DHL Supply Chain expands in China

DHL Supply Chain plans to open warehousing facilities in Wuhan and Chengdu in China to profit from the region's growth in demand for contract logistics. The company will add up to a further 200,000m² of new facilities in China in the next two years.

FedEx launches Pak XL for bigger shipments

FedEx has launched a bigger version of its shipping packaging, Pak, in Asian markets. Pak XL is 90% larger than the Large Pak and can be used for both documents and goods. It is available to customers free of charge.

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Swiss Post confident about the future of physical mail

Swiss Post has declared its conviction that the letter business will remain a strong pillar of its business in the long term.

It cites the results of surveys of private individuals and businesses showing that seven out of 10 private customers would like to continue receiving business mail such as invoices and salary statements in physical form.

Private individuals expressed misgivings about the security of data transmitted electronically: 71% of respondents would choose to receive invoices on paper and 67% wanted their salary statements in physical form.

Individuals showed a high acceptance of direct mail: 62% felt that direct mail was addressed personally to them compared with 23% for email; 68% considered companies sending physical promotional mail to be reputable while only 27% believed the same of companies advertising via email.

The survey of businesses showed that 97% of companies send their business-to-consumer correspondence by post. For promotional correspondence, 62% of companies responding believed their customers were more likely to read physical mail.

Swiss Post, in common with other postal operators, has seen a decline in mail volume. However the company reports that decline slowed significantly in 2010 and that volume increased slightly in the first half of 2011. The company said it would continue to invest significantly in the letter business in order to optimise services and make processes as efficient as possible.

UK, Germany online sales remain strong

E-retailers in the United Kingdom experienced better-than-expected sales in the first six months of 2011.

The IMRG Capgemini e-Retail Sales Index shows that sales from UK-based e-retailers rose by 19% compared with the first half of 2010. The 100 retailers contributing to the

index achieved online sales worth £31.5bn, 1% more than IMRG and Capgemini forecast in January this year.

A number of factors are likely to have contributed to growth in online sales. With the economy struggling and many consumers having less disposable income, shoppers turned to the internet for better prices. The Royal wedding in the UK, and the extra national holiday in its honour, boosted online spending on alcohol. Warm weather came early in April prompting consumers to purchase summer clothes.

In June the IMRG Capgemini index recorded online sales worth £5.3bn, 21% more than in June last year, the strongest year-on-year growth recorded to date. The increase in online sales outpaced sales from traditional retail outlets, which declined by 0.6% compared with June 2010.

While clothing sales were stagnant in June on the high street, e-retailers reported a 31% increase. Shops putting their goods on sale to stimulate demand offered the same discounted prices online, helping to boost their e-retail business. Increasingly, the online channel is becoming central to shopping behaviour in the UK, according to IMRG.

Online sales have also been strong in Germany, where e-sales accounted for two-thirds of total distance selling in the first six months of 2011, according to the German e-commerce and distance selling association, bvh.



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The sector, which includes e-commerce and traditional mail order, generated €16.07bn in sales in the first half year, according to the study. The association is predicting a record year. It expects sales to rise 7% above the 2010 figure to reach €32.4bn.

Sales figures for the distance selling sector are based on bvh's 'Interactive Trade in Germany' study conducted by institute TNS Infratest which researches the spending behaviour of around 30,000 adults.

DHL to support House of Fraser multi-channel strategy

DHL is to support the multi-channel growth strategy of a United Kingdom department store chain in a five-year contract worth £85m.

The contract with House of Fraser continues a seven-year relationship between the two companies. It provides for House of Fraser's existing warehouse in Milton Keynes to

be used exclusively for online order fulfilment. The retailer's e-commerce web site services 32 countries.

A new logistics facility in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, supplying department stores was due to be fully operational in August.

KPG members plan services for international e-retailers

The 10 national postal operators in the Kahala Post Group (KPG) have said they will develop services for international e-commerce.

At a three-day meeting in Barcelona, KPG's executive committee established guidelines for the development of solutions for e-commerce and the launch of new reverse logistics services.

The international services provided by KPG are based on the post's EMS express service. Members renewed their commitment to maintain and improve quality of service,



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confirming the group's overall aim to deliver 95% of parcels within the agreed time.

The members of KPG are Australia Post, China Post, Correos (Spain), Groupe La Poste, Hong Kong Post, Japan Post, Korea Post, Royal Mail, Singapore Post and the United States Postal Service.

Shutl offers UK e-retailers low-cost same-day delivery

Shutl, a UK internet company, has plans to extend its same-day delivery services to e-tailers from London to the cities of Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Shutl claims its service allows retailers to fulfil orders made online from their shop closest to the delivery point, thus providing quicker delivery than a more traditional operation based on a centralised warehouse.

The company connects retailers with same-day couriers located close to order recipients. It uses a technology platform to aggregate capacity across local couriers creating a web service that can be linked to retailers' e-commerce platforms as a delivery option. It claims the delivery charge made to consumers will be comparable to standard delivery.

The company offers two service levels: Shutl Now, delivering in as little as 90 minutes, and Shutl Later, delivering the same day or later within a one-hour time slot.

Shutl says its service has revitalised local same-day couriers which have been hit by e-substitution of previously hand-delivered documents and declining volumes from the financial services sector.

Initially, the company will move into to new cities by extending its current service to the UK retail fashion chains Karen Millen, Oasis, Coast and Warehouse while marketing its expanded service to other city-centre retail outlets.

Geodis forms partnership with Kiala in France

Geodis aims to strengthen its services to e-retailers through a new strategic partnership with Kiala, which operates 5,000 collection and delivery points within shops in France.



About 20% of consumer parcels ordered via online or mail order channels in France are collected from pick-up points. Geodis, the express and logistics division of French railways, SNCF, plans to offer delivery to Kiala pick-up points as an alternative to home delivery by its subsidiary, France Express.

The company says it will deliver to Kiala points the next day, before noon, six days a week. A new information system will offer consumers email or SMS alerts when goods are shipped and are ready for collection, as well as online tracking.

Geodis calculates that e-commerce in France generated €31bn in turnover in 2010, 24% more than in 2009. Consumer online purchases accounted for €18.1bn last year, the company said.

Hermes extends shipping solution to small German e-tailers

German business-to-consumer parcels company Hermes aims to attract smaller e-commerce operators by opening its portal to e-retailers shipping small volumes.

The ProfiPaketService web site allows e-retailers to integrate their websites with Hermes systems to provide shipping and delivery to customers in more than 20 European countries.

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Hermes said that about 77% of small and medium-sized enterprises in Germany had not yet begun using the internet as a sales channel. They presented enormous potential growth to parcel operators.

DHL offers COD to Russian online shoppers

DHL Express has developed logistics solutions to support e-commerce growth in Russia, including payment for online orders by cash on delivery.

The company has a new contract with book store Moskva to deliver purchases within three to five days to 340 locations across Russia. Customers can either request home delivery or collect from their nearest DHL Express service point.

Swiss Post helps publishers reach holidaymakers

Swiss holidaymakers in Malta and Cyprus have been able to read up-to-date copies of their favourite newspapers this summer courtesy of a new service from Swiss Post International (SPI) subsidiary Export Distribution Services.

The company has been transmitting international editions of Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ), Blick and SonntagsBlick electronically for local printing on newsprint and distribution to hotels, newsstands and other businesses.

The operation is taking place within SPI's new business concept to distribute printed material for publishing houses seeking to adapt their delivery patterns during the holiday season.

German journalist marketplaces merge

Two German online marketplaces providing material by journalists are to merge. They are Deutsche Post's DieRedaktion.de and Spredder, founded by Hajo Schumacher and Sebastian Esser.

The merged operation will allow journalists to market their work and will carry advertising for editorial jobs.

Deutsche Post launched DieRedaktion.de in March this year. Almost 1,600 journalists have registered while publisher Axel Springer Verlag is one of the first customers for their work. Other companies and organisations use the portal to award contracts to qualified journalists. Spredder's members will be able to buy and sell articles via DieRedaktion.de.

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Spredder's founders will act as independent consultants to the merged business.

Deutsche Post DHL sees big gains in operating profit

Deutsche Post DHL is reaping the benefits of restructuring and efficiency measures at a time when its DHL and German Parcel businesses are achieving revenue growth.

In the first half year, operating earnings jumped by 55.7% to €1.2bn. Group turnover was €25.7bn compared with €24.8bn in the first half of 2010. In addition to improved revenues and earnings, the first half year of 2011 saw no restructuring expenses whereas restructuring costs amounted to €304m in the second quarter of 2010.

The DHL divisions generated the greatest share of both growth and earnings before interest and tax (EBIT), which contributed €834m. That was an increase of almost €500m over the same period last year. The German Parcel business is experiencing a revenue rise of around 8% owing to growth in e-commerce.

The company's net financial income fell to a loss of €319m in the first half of 2011 compared with €1.2bn in the same period last year. The decline was almost entirely due to the valuation of financial instruments from the sale of Postbank.

Deutsche Post DHL said last year's result included positive effects of €1.4bn related to the Postbank transaction while expenses totalling €133m were incurred in the first six months of 2011.

The Postbank accounting effect had a major impact on group consolidated net profit, which fell to €603m from €1.8bn the previous year. Adjusted for Postbank effects, the company said, half-year consolidated net profit would have increased by more than 80% in the first six months of 2011.

The company's outlook at full year is for an EBIT at the higher end of the range between €2.2bn and €2.4bn projected by the board of management. The mail division is expected to produce earnings of between €1bn and €1.1bn while DHL is projected to achieve double-digit growth to achieve operating earnings of between €1.6bn and €1.7bn.

PostNL reports positive Q2 results as it overcomes legal challenge to restructuring plans

PostNL N.V. has posted positive results for the second quarter, reporting underlying revenues for the quarter up by 4.1% to €1,033, an underlying cash operating income of €25m, and an interim dividend per share of €0.214.

PostNL has traded as a stand-alone company since 26 May 2011, following its demerger from TNT (with the legal



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demerger of Express activities effective as of 31 May 2011). The interim 2011 dividend of €0.214 per share includes a €0.017 dividend per share receivable from the company's stake in TNT Express. This 29.9% stake was initially valued at €1,583 million, but the company reported impairment of €397 million, as prescribed by accounting standards. PostNL's net debt position was of €925 million as of 02 July 2011.

The results come just a couple of weeks after the company won approval for plans to shut 300 delivery centres in the Netherlands under its long-term reorganisation strategy, following a decision of the Amsterdam Court's Enterprise Chamber to throw out a legal challenge by the Post NL Production Works Council to the company's restructuring plans.

The court was convinced by the company's arguments that the proposed restructuring was proportional to desired savings, that it took the interests of employees into consideration as much as possible, and that crucially there was no viable alternative.

PostNL plans to cut its workforce by about 14%, or 11,000, which will include 2,800 compulsory redundancies. The company currently employs 77,000 people in the Netherlands, Germany, Italy and the UK, where it delivers about 8.6bn items annually.

Commenting on both the financial results and the court's decision CEO Harry Koorstra underscored the developments made by PostNL on three key parameters: addressed mail volumes, continued consolidation within the Dutch market, and the progress of the company's reorganisation master plan.

"Looking at our performance during the first two quarters of the year, I am pleased to see that we are well on track towards the top half of our guided range", Koorstra said, announcing an interim dividend of €75m plus the €6.5m receivable from TNT Express N.V. "The process of consolidation in the Dutch market continues, [...] and International's performance further improved, with Germany on track to become profitable", he said.

Looking towards year-end results for 2011, the company expects underlying cash operating income to be €150 or

above, within the top half of the guide range of €130-170m. The decline in addressed letter mail volumes in the Netherlands for 2011 is projected at between eight and 10%, largely due to ongoing substitution and competition; however the company also foresees accruing savings of some €50-60m during the same period.

TNT Express sees second quarter profits fall

Releasing its first quarterly figures since its demerger from PostNL in May, TNT Express announced a decline in second quarter net profit attributable to shareholders of 85% to just €4m. Operating profit was 23% lower on a reported basis at €46m but 8.1% less at €79m on an underlying basis.

Second quarter reported revenues rose by 0.9% on the previous year to €1.8bn while underlying revenues were €1.89bn, 2.9% higher than last year.

The European business produced adjusted operating profits of €109m, 11.2% more than in the previous second quarter. European revenues rose by 2.4% to €1.15bn.

The company's Asian business fell into a €3m loss compared with an €8m profit in the same period last year. Revenues were up 9% to €458m but the company said volatile Asia-Europe demand and increased market capacity had put pressure on rates while higher fuel costs had a negative impact on intercontinental services.

TNT Express responded to volatile demand by restructuring its Asia-Europe air freighter services. It will operate four wide-body aircraft on Asia-Europe routes and took delivery of a Boeing 777 at the end of July.

In America, heavy losses in Brazil depressed TNT Express profits. The region saw an adjusted operating loss of €33m against a loss of €14m a year earlier. Restructuring and one-off costs amounted to €12m, producing a reported loss of €45m.

For the full year, TNT Express is aiming for modest revenue growth, stable profits in Europe and Middle East-Africa, partial recovery in Asia and a continuing turnaround in the Americas. It is aiming to achieve about €50m in cost savings in 2011.

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Poste Italiane revenue, profits dip at half year

Weaker performance from insurance activities and lower revenues from postal and mail services helped to depress Poste Italiane's results for the first half of 2011.

The company achieved overall revenues of €11.5bn in the six months, a fall of 6.8% compared with the same period last year. Operating profit dropped by 6% to €860m and net profit fell by 5.6% to €460m.

Revenues from postal services declined by 8.8% to €2.45bn while revenue from mail dropped by 9.7% – mail volume declined by 10.3% in the first half, year on year.

Poste Italiane's subsidiary, SDA Express Courier, increased its external revenues by 6.7% to €160m. Revenue from financial services dropped slightly, however, to €2.45bn. Insurance services were the company's biggest growth area in 2010, but in the first half of 2011 insurance revenue fell by 8.2% to €6.4bn.

Austrian Post sees interim growth in all divisions

Austrian Post enjoyed higher revenue and earnings in the first half of 2011. The post claims that its strategy to offset declining letter volumes with parcels and direct mail growth was bringing good results to its bottom line.

Revenue rose 2.9% against the first half of 2010 to €1.14bn on a comparable basis adjusted for the deconsolidation of loss-making Meiller companies in 2010.

Group earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) rose more strongly, gaining 9.1% on the first six months of last year at €81.3m. Earnings before tax rose 12.5% to €79.4m. After deducting income taxes totalling €17.4m, the group profit after tax for the period amounted to €62m.

Mail revenue rose by 2.1% on a comparable basis to €651.5m. Letter mail revenue was constant at €361m while 'Infomail' (addressed and unaddressed direct mail) revenue rose 5.6% on a comparable basis with volume also increasing. The media post business saw a 1.9% revenue increase on the same period of 2010.

The mail division's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) increased by 4.8% on the first half last year to €143.5m while EBIT rose by 10.2% to €130.4m.

Parcels and logistics revenues rose by 6.2% to €410.9m on the back of higher volumes. Next-day premium parcels generated 5.6% more revenue in the first half this year at €321m. Austrian Post's German subsidiary trans-o-flex accounted for more than three-quarters of the division's revenue.

Revenue from the standard parcels service used mainly for consumer deliveries was 1.8% higher at €79.5m.

EBIT for the parcel and logistics division rose overall by 69.3% compared with last year to €10.3m.

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The branch network division has been undergoing a restructuring, with outlets operated by third parties increasing to 1,212 by the end of the half-year. The structural change affected revenue generated from the remaining company-owned outlets. External sales fell year on year by 6.2% while internal sales declined slightly by 1.2%.

Earnings from the branch network division, however, benefited from structural change ending the first half year at €3.9m compared with a loss of €7.7m in the first half of 2010.

Austrian Post said it expects the volume of addressed letters to decrease by 3% to 5% a year, driven mainly by electronic substitution. Business parcels and direct mail are seen as areas for positive development.

The company anticipates continuing revenue growth throughout 2011 and has confirmed its aim to achieve a sustainable EBITDA margin between 10% and 12%.

PostFinance enjoys a strong half year

Swiss Post's PostFinance saw its first half pre-tax earnings rise to CHF327m, 19.3% higher than the same period last year.

The company acquired 43,000 new customers and opened 103,000 new accounts in the period. Customer assets amounted to almost CHF90bn at the end of June, boosting PostFinance's interest result to CHF577m, 12% more than in 2010.

Operating income for the six months was CHF760m compared with CHF692m. Net interest after writedowns totalled CHF541m, net income from services and commission was CHF147m and net trading income was CHF79m.

Operating expenses were CHF424m for second quarter of 2011 compared with €412m for the same period last year, with staff costs accounting for more than half at CHF225m. The company increased its number of full-time positions by 130 between January and the end of June.

Itella falls into loss as mail declines faster than expected

Itella's president and chief executive has described the group's operating loss in the first half of 2011 as "clearly unsatisfactory", saying that mail operations were the main cause of a decline in earnings before interest and tax from €12.1m last year to a loss of €3.4m in 2011.



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Digitisation affected delivery volumes for magazines and newspapers faster than expected. Also, the increased popularity of second class mail reduced both income and profitability.

The company said strong cost control measures would be needed in the postal business, including staff reductions. In addition, the company said the government would need to decide whether to help finance the postal service or allow service levels to be adjusted to income.

Itella's logistics division recorded a loss despite an increase in net sales. Itella Information's profitability was burdened by a structural shift in the business to focus on financial administration outsourcing coupled with a downward trend in printed invoices.

Aramex reports good quarter despite Middle East unrest

Dubai-based express operator Aramex saw its revenue and net profit rise in the second quarter despite unrest in many of its key Middle Eastern and North African markets.

Revenue rose 16% to 648m UAE dirhams (AED) and net profits increased by 3% to AED56.5m. The company maintained its cautious outlook owing to political instability in its core business region. It reported challenging conditions in some markets where revenues had dropped significantly; operations in Libya remained suspended at the end of the quarter.

Acquisitions boost Geodis results

Geodis increased its half-year earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation to €125m compared with €50m in the same period last year.

Revenues rose by 11.1% year on year to €0.8bn with acquisitions accounting for almost half the growth. On a like-for-like basis revenue grew by 6.3%, the company said.

Geodis had intended to acquire Tatex this year but abandoned its plan when the French competition authority announced it had serious concerns. The authority said it would open an in-depth examination into the impact of the proposed purchase on competition in the French domestic express business-to-business delivery sector.



City Link optimistic despite deeper losses

United Kingdom parcels operator City Link made an operating loss of £17.8m in the first half-year compared with a loss of £4.7m in the same period of 2010.

Revenues slumped by 13.5% to £144.5m. Volumes dropped by 9.9% owing to loss of customers in 2010 and additional costs related to severe weather in the winter.

The company remains optimistic, however, saying that City Link has made progress in its operational and customer care systems with stable trading since February.

New business includes an expansion to the company's contract with marketing promotion company MDA and new contracts with catering and bar supplier Mitchell & Cooper and wine merchant Laithwaites.

MDA is now using City Link exclusively to deliver time-critical promotional material while Mitchell & Cooper has switched all its deliveries to 1,000 businesses to City Link. The catering company is said to have been impressed by City Link's newly implemented parcel tracking capabilities. For Laithwaites, City Link is operating home delivery across the UK.

Russian Post's revenues rise

Russian Post increased its revenues by 16% to RUB57.4bn in the first half of 2011. Its net profit rose more than twenty-fold compared with the same period last year to RUB4.8bn owing to an accounting measure that placed all

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2011 compensation for the cost of the universal service in the second quarter.

The postal operator said it expected net profit at year end to be comparable to the 2010 figure of RUB483m.

Revenue from postal services, including letters, parcels and express, rose by 19% to RUB24.6bn; revenue from parcels was 22% higher than in the first half of 2010 while revenue from express rose by 34%.

Financial services revenue grew by 17% to RUB22.6bn driven mainly by paying out pensions and benefits at a higher tariff in 2011; product sales increased by 7% to RUB9.7bn.

Operational costs increased by 17% to RUB12.4bn owing mainly to transport and fuel cost, and network maintenance costs rose by 17% to RUB7.8bn owing to the restructuring of post offices.

Separate chair appointed to Post Office board

A former United Kingdom senior civil servant is to be the chair of the Post Office Ltd board after its next meeting, due in September.

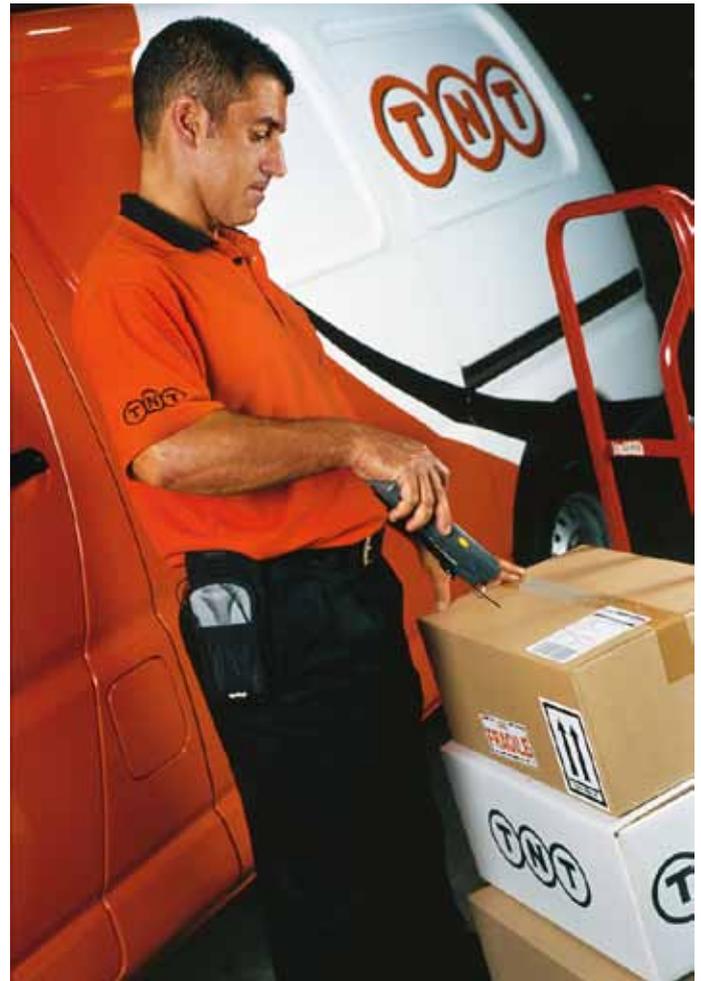
Alice Perkins worked at the UK Treasury and Cabinet Office before becoming a director of the British Airports Authority and research company TNS. Her appointment is another step on the path towards separation of Post Office from Royal Mail as provided for in the new Postal Services Act.

Ms Perkins succeeds Donald Brydon, who will continue as chairman of the Royal Mail Group.

Barber appointed head of UPS Europe Region

UPS has appointed Jim Barber as its new president of its Europe region covering Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Mr Barber joined UPS as a driver in 1985 in the US state of Georgia and held a number of senior management positions before moving to Brussels as Europe Region Controller in 2004. In 2006, he was promoted to president of the UK and Ireland district and last year he moved back to Brussels as region chief operations officer.



He replaces Wolfgang Flick who is retiring after 35 years of service at UPS. Mr Flick joined the company in 1976 when UPS launched its German operation in its first expansion beyond North America.

TNT improves connections to Iraq

TNT Express has increased its number of flights to Iraq to six a week and has signed up Mateen Express as its exclusive partner in the country.

The company said it needed to improve connections to its Middle East operations as part of its strategy to become the leading express delivery provider in emerging markets.



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DHL delivers high fashion shoes worldwide

UK high fashion shoe designer Terry De Havilland has outsourced its logistics for the first time in a twelve-month contract awarded to DHL.

The contract relates to the company's recently launched ready-to-wear collection. DHL Supply Chain, DHL Express and DHL Freight will work together to provide transport, storage and delivery. DHL will collect shoes from the point of manufacturing in Spain and deliver worldwide to online shoppers and retail outlets.

The company said the deal demonstrated its ability to support international retailers offering high quality products at lower volumes.

UAE start-up builds its parcel service offer

A company set up in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to operate a network of parcel collection machines has purchased express operator Zip Express to offer next-day delivery in the UAE, road express delivery in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and import services.

Parzel was started up this year by Kedu, a Dubai-based company specialising in automated services. It has installed three parcel collection machines in Dubai under a partnership agreement with KEBA, which supplies its machines to Post Danmark, Austrian Post, Norway Post and Turkish Post.

In its first phase Parzel plans to install 15 machines and then to add more locations throughout the Emirates. The company will use its Zip Express acquisition to provide logistics under the Parzel brand name.

DPD Germany gains AEO customs status

DPD Germany has gained an Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) certificate allowing it to benefit from simpler, faster customs clearance.

The European Union introduced the AEO system in January 2008 in order to make the international supply chain safer and more transparent. AEOs get better treatment at customs clearance; the application process is simpler and goods and documents are checked less frequently.

DPD gained full status which combines simplified customs and legal processes with safety aspects. To gain its certificate, the company had to show it complied with relevant legal and safety regulations and that it met requirements for reliability and liquidity.

Express industry seeks trade agreement

Members of the Global Express Association believe that a global trade facilitation agreement would boost trade and reduce costs. Simpler, more transparent and predictable customs and border rules would bring benefits to all countries and to global trade, the association says.

Grau Tanner, director general of the Global Express Association, believes that inefficient and obsolete customs procedures present a serious obstacle for global express delivery companies and their operations.

Both delays and inconsistencies create problems. Under the present system, express companies cannot tell a global manufacturer considering relocation to another country whether or not they will be able to deliver inbound urgent spare parts in time. Clarity would bring huge benefits, believes Mr Tanner.

The international express industry is hopeful that a World Trade Organisation (WTO) trade-facilitation agreement will be achieved by the end of 2011. The Global Express Association has welcomed progress made to date on negotiations within the WTO Doha Development Agenda. It acknowledged, however, that there is a question mark over whether any package will be signed off at the WTO Ministerial Conference in December.

Mr Tanner believes WTO members should consider ways to move forward with trade facilitation if they are not able to agree a package in December.

Russian Post invests in modernisation

Russian Post is investing RUB14bn from its own funds in modernisation in order to reduce delivery times.

The money will be allocated to construction of new automated sorting centres, the purchase of equipment, the modernisation of technological and IT communication

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infrastructure, transport and logistics infrastructure and improvements to post offices.

Exporter confidence rising in the UK

The confidence of exporters in the United Kingdom is still rising but economic conditions are causing them to hold back on investment and recruitment, according to the new Trade Confidence Index launched jointly by DHL and the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC).

The index is based on a survey of more than 1,000 exporters and an analysis of export documentation. It found that export sales rose by 3.6% the second quarter of this year, compared with the same period last year.

Confidence among exporters in turnover growth over the next 12 months rose by five percentage points to 46%

while confidence in higher profits jumped from 17% last year to 28% in the second quarter this year.

The BCC identified a disconnection between exporting companies' strong performance and their lack of confidence to create jobs. Concerns about the economy and Eurozone debt were key reasons for caution with regard to investment.

Swiss Post maintains its apprentice intake

Swiss Post will take on 750 new apprentices in 2012, providing training in logistics, retail, commercial professions and maintenance.

The new intake will match the number of apprentices who started their training with Swiss Post this year. The company employs more than 600,000 people and currently has





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2,000 apprentices in training; that equates to 5% of the total number of Swiss Post's full-time equivalent workers.

Itella takes stake in banking systems supplier

Itella Corporation is now the joint owner of Samlink, the company that supplies its payment systems subsidiary, Itella IPS, with its banking system.

IPS provides services for the transfer of money related to invoicing. It has applied for a licence under the Finnish Act on Credit Institutions in order to develop its services further.

Samlink has a total of four joint owners: savings bank Aktia Oy; POP banking group; Handelsbanken Suomi and Itella Corporation.

The UK's ByBox provides supply chain service for Computacenter

UK parcels operator ByBox is now providing full supply chain support to IT infrastructure services provider Computacenter in a three-year extension of a previous contract.

ByBox's operation is based on next-day delivery before 08.00hrs to its 18,000 drop boxes at 1,350 locations. The company serves customers with field engineers and those needing 24-hour forward stocking points. Its services also include delivery direct to site before 10.00hrs, same-day delivery and a 'Tech courier' service whereby an engineer undertakes both delivery and part replacements.

High satisfaction for Swiss Post employees

Swiss Post's annual employee survey reveals that the employee satisfaction index across the group as a whole remained stable this year at 75. Willingness to perform scored 87 and commitment to the business scored 83.

At divisional level, employee satisfaction at PostMail increased by one point to 75. Customer focus at PostMail was also one point higher than last year at 78 while commitment to the business was stable at 83.

PostLogistics gained higher scores from employees this year with the satisfaction index rising from 71 to 73, commitment to the business from 81 to 82 and willingness to perform from 85 to 86.

PostFinance produced the best results with an 80-point satisfaction index and 90 points for willingness to perform.

DHL Supply Chain wins major contract in the UK

DHL Supply Chain has won a contract in the United Kingdom worth £46m to provide Telefónica products to retail stores, distributors, businesses and consumers.

Spanish-owned telecommunications company Telefónica has engaged DHL to distribute mobile devices, SIM cards, modems and accessories. DHL will customise products and packaging to individual retailers' requirements and will carry out reverse logistics and recycling for returns.

TNT flies food aid to famine victims

TNT Express airlifted 45 tons of emergency food aid to Nairobi in Kenya in early August in support of the United Nations World Food Programme's efforts to feed starving children in Somalia.

The airlift from TNT's hub in Liège, Belgium, formed part of the aid response to famine in five regions of Somalia affecting 3.7m people.

The mission took place two weeks after former TNT chief executive Peter Bakker asked TNT, UPS and other members of the United Nations' Logistics Emergency Teams (LET) to mobilise to help deal with the famine.

Mr Bakker, now an ambassador to the United Nations, had returned from a trip to Somalia. He called on LET members respond urgently to the emergency in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Integrators' share prices decline as markets fall

The four global integrators, Deutsche Post DHL, TNT Express, UPS and FedEx, all saw their share prices fall during the third week of August when investors moved out of corporate stock amid pessimism about world economic prospects.

In the week beginning 15 August, Deutsche Post DHL shares fell by 8.7%, FedEx shares by 10.62%, TNT Express shares by 12.14% and UPS shares by 6.34%.

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Correios conducts training for PUASP members

CTT-Correios de Portugal hosted a management course in July for senior officials from the national postal operators of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Paraguay and Venezuela. The course was conducted under training cooperation between Correios and the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (PUASP).

DHL Ireland back in the black

DHL Express is reported to have turned round its loss-making Irish business to produce an operating profit of €0.4m in 2010. DHL says they are satisfied that restructuring has been successful; in 2009, the company closed seven regional depots and cut staff numbers.

Exapaq to have new IT platform

Le Groupe La Poste subsidiary Exapaq has chosen Imtech to create a company-wide open IT platform linking diverse information systems at the parcels company.

FedEx Trade Networks expands

Ocean and air freight forwarder FedEx Trade Networks has opened offices in Bucharest; Munich and Chengdu, China as part of its global expansion plan.

Serbian Post to implement new accounting system

Serbian postal operator PTT Communications Srbija is preparing to implement an analytical accounting system based on the methodology used by CTT-Correios de Portugal following an agreement involving the Correios consultancy team.

PostNL sells off Balkan mail business

PostNL has completed the sale of its addressed and unaddressed mail activities in the Czech Republic and Slovakia in accordance with its strategy to concentrate its non-Dutch mail activities in the large European markets of Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

GLS plans new depot near Munich

Royal Mail-owned European parcels operator GLS is construct-

ing a new 3,300m² depot near Munich, Germany, to replace a smaller facility at Sauerlach.

TNT Innight opens north German depot

TNT Innight's new depot in Glinde, northern Germany, is equipped with 125 gates and is the company's hub serving Scandinavia as well as Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-West Pomerania.

New DPD depot in Russian Caucasus

DPD continues to expand its Russian network with the opening of a depot in Pyatigorsk in the Caucasus region. The 400m² facility has capacity to handle more than 23,000 parcels a day.

Integrators hold surcharges steady

The four major international express operators, DHL, FedEx, TNT and UPS, have left their fuel surcharges unchanged in August but a trend downwards is expected as oil prices drop.

DPD opens new depot in Austria

DPD Austria's new depot at Sachsenburg near the motorway from Salzburg to Slovenia will improve coverage of Upper Carinthia and the eastern Tyrol. It is operated by DPD Austria shareholder Lagermax Paketdienst and is one of 14 depots in the country.

Deutsche Post wins award for Facebook app

Deutsche Post's Social Memories Facebook application has won a red dot design award for communication design. The application allows Facebook users to compile comments and photos from their personal profile in a 28-page book that can be mailed anywhere in the world. The award judges were impressed by the application for its originality, conciseness and emotional appeal.

DHL builds its partnership with Manchester United

The DHL has signed a four-year agreement that builds on the company's existing relationship with the club as its official logistics partner, providing logistics support for the club's pre-season tour of the United States.

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