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NZ Post pilots advanced photo capture system

New Zealand Post is building up the identity verification services it offers through its retail network and is piloting a passport photo service in 14 PostShop KiwiBank outlets.

The DaonEngine photo capture system being used for the pilot has face quality assessment capabilities and the capacity to capture other biometric components such as fingerprints, signatures and biographical documents.

New Zealand Post is an authorised agent for receiving passport applications. Photo capture builds on the application checking service and is the next step in the company's plan to roll out premium identity verification capabilities.

If the current pilot is successful, it will be extended to about 150 PostShop stores across New Zealand by early next year.

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Strikes at Canada Post produce second quarter loss

A labour dispute drove Canada Post into a pre-tax loss of CA\$35m in the second quarter that ended 02 July.

During the second quarter, Canada Post lost CA\$167m in revenue as a result of strikes by postal workers in June. Revenue from operations this year was CA\$1.76bn compared with CA\$1.45bn in the second quarter of 2010.

The corporation as a whole reported a net loss of CA\$17m compared with a net profit of CA\$47m in the second quarter last year. Consolidated group revenue from operations was down 2.4% to CA\$1.76bn.

Transaction mail, direct marketing and parcels all saw year-on-year declines in volume owing to the effects of labour

disruption. Transaction mail volume was 6% down on last year, driven by a 5.8% decline in domestic letters. Direct marketing volume declined by 12.2% and parcels volume by 14.6%.

Profits from the logistics business declined from CA\$3m last year to CA\$2m.

The Canada Post Corporation's express company, Purolator, achieved a pre-tax profit of CA\$24m compared with CA\$23m last year, on revenue of CA\$415m compared with CA\$373m. Costs rose from CA\$349m last year to CA\$390m.

The express subsidiary has opened seven additional branches in the United States in 2011 and plans to have another three by the end of the year bringing the total number to 20. Purolator says its branches are located in the top US markets for trade with Canada. US exports to Canada were worth more than CA\$250bn in 2010 and are growing, according to the company.



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Argentina's OCA delivers online purchases

Argentinean express operator OCA is to deliver goods ordered online from the Mercado Libre shopping portal.

In a national deal OCA and Mercado Libre have set up a dedicated portal under the name EnviosOCA.com that allows e-retailers to manage business-to-consumer deliveries to homes or the nearest OCA branch.

OCA will offer preferential rates to online retailers and will provide both retailers and buyers tools such as online tracking and delivery alerts by email or SMS.

FedEx Office offers cloud printing

FedEx Office, the company's retail network, has enhanced its Print Online service by giving access to Google Docs so that customers can upload files from their Google account for printing.

The Print Online service was launched in 2007 and now offers a variety of printing options with preview, archiving and re-ordering features. Customers can collect printed material from FedEx Office stores or have them delivered.

The new Google Docs cloud printing feature meets customer demand for mobility, according to FedEx Office.

UPS signs major sport sponsorship deals in US

UPS has announced a major sport sponsorship package designed to deliver media exposure, marketing rights and a powerful communications platform.

The company has signed new, multi-year agreements with IMG College and the Big Ten and Pac-12 US college football conferences.

The new relationship with IMG College, a division of IMG Worldwide, gives UPS a national presence with local

sponsorship opportunities with 68 IMG university partners across the United States.

The company will receive marketing assets, communication channels and intellectual property with which to reach sports fans. It will have visibility on game days at 250 college venues providing media coverage. Under the agreement, UPS will have exclusive marketing and promotional rights in shipping, freight and logistics related to the universities' athletic programmes.

The new agreements with the Big Ten and Pac-12 provide similar marketing benefits, including logistics category exclusive rights for UPS and UPS Store and tickets and hospitality for UPS customers at games and championship events.

FedEx Freight serves new markets in Mexico

FedEx Freight is providing less-than-truckload (LTL) services to three additional markets within Mexico: Toluca, Puebla and Veracruz, reducing transit times for customers in the south east of the country by 50% on average.

FedEx Freight provides its LTL services in Mexico in an alliance with Auto Lineas America through a network of 15 service centres.

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UPS flies 100 tonnes more food aid to Africa

UPS sent a further 100-tonne shipment of emergency food aid to the Horn of Africa at the end of August on behalf of UNICEF. At the beginning of the month it flew 50 tonnes of food to help the UN World Food Programme and committed to leveraging its global logistics network to help speed supplies.

Operators get back to normal after hurricane

Parcel, express and mail operators on the east coast of the United States began returning their services to normal at the end of August as the effects of Hurricane Irene continued to cause significant delays.

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New Zealand Post incurs a loss in 2010-11

New Zealand Post Group has recorded a loss for the year ended 30 June 2011 due to a number of adverse impacts over the past 12 months.

A write-down, restructuring costs, the effects of earthquakes and debt provision contributed to a loss of NZ\$35.6m for New Zealand Post in the full year to end June 2011. This compares to a net profit after tax of NZ\$1.3m the previous year. The negative impact of earthquakes amounted to NZ\$1.3m.

During the 12 months, the New Zealand Post had a NZ\$37m increase in Kiwibank debt provision in response to a depressed economy and the Christchurch earthquakes; a write-down of NZ\$35m resulting from the sale of part of Parcel Direct Group in Australia; and restructuring costs of NZ\$12.3m under a realignment of the business.

Revenue for the year was NZ\$12.79bn compared with NZ\$12.04bn and the loss before interest and tax (EBIT)

was NZ\$25m compared with a profit of NZ\$47.4 last year. The underlying group profit after tax for 2010-11 was NZ\$41.7m compared with NZ\$73.6m the previous year.

The group chief executive Brian Roche described the results as “very disappointing” but said he was confident of a return to profit in the current year.

He announced a major programme to reposition the business by building digital services and continuing to grow Kiwibank. The restructuring programme is designed to create a viable and sustainable postal network in the light of mail volume decline.

Toll Global Express increases full year profits

Toll Global Express, a division of Australia’s Toll Group, achieved 19% sales revenue growth to AU\$2.14bn in the year to June 2011, and earnings increased by almost 27% to AU\$169.9m.

While performance in Australia was “excellent”, the division’s Toll Footwork Express unit in Japan experienced a small underlying loss owing to the impact of the earthquake and tsunami. Reported earnings for the unit, however, were boosted by one-off gains amounting to about AU\$25m.



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Toll Priority experienced strong revenue and earnings growth, according to the company, including revenues from DPEX and other acquisitions, improved air charter revenue and contract wins. The acquisition of DPEX operations in Singapore, Hong Kong and China was completed in August 2010, extending the division's express freight offer in Asia.

Toll IPEC, Toll Global Forwarding and Toll Global Logistics also experienced revenue and earnings growth.

FedEx opens new unit in Shanghai

FedEx Express opened a new operations unit in Shanghai on 01 September in order to meet growing demand for package volume in China.

The unit, FedEx's largest in China, occupies 5,140m² and handles pick-up and delivery for customers in Huangpu, Jingan, Nanhui, Fengxian and some parts of the Pudong New District.

As part of its commitment to Shanghai, FedEx signed a strategic collaboration memorandum with Shanghai Airport Group in June, focusing on expansion of cargo and other operational facilities within the Shanghai Pudong International Airport.

Exports and imports in Shanghai in the first half of 2011 totalled US\$207.89bn, 21% more than the previous year.

UPS plans to develop air express in Zhengzhou

UPS has entered a memorandum of understanding with the provincial government of Henan to open a package delivery and logistics facility in the province's capital of Zhengzhou.

The aim is to develop air express and make Zhengzhou a major hub for central China. The company's express operations in China delivered more than 10m parcels a day at the end of 2010.

Air freight volumes from Asia weak in July

Air freight volumes out of Asia remained weak in July, leading to overcapacity on some routes, particularly in China.

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FedEx increases airfreight capacity

FedEx Express has deployed an A300-600 with 50 tonnes of freight capacity on its route from Incheon, South Korea, to Europe via its hub in Guanzhou, China. The service, which flies ten times a week, was previously operated with a 37-tonne capacity A310-300F.

Preliminary figures released by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines showed air freight volumes carried by Asian airlines decreasing by 4% compared with 2010. Capacity remained similar to July last year giving rise to a 2.9 percentage point decline in average international freight load factor at 66.9%.

Kerry Logistics opens centres in Hanoi and Hefei

Asian forwarding and logistics group Kerry Logistics has opened new logistics centres in Hanoi, Vietnam and Hefei, China.

The Hanoi centre will start operating in November to provide direct ocean access to international markets. The 10,000m² facility has direct road access to Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport and is close to the Doung inland container depot. The company said the centre completed its coverage of Vietnam.

The 20,000m² logistics centre in Hefei has been developed to serve the automotive industry in Anhui Province, providing specialist logistics services including sub-assembly and kitting, just-in-time delivery, regular transport runs and added value services such as functional testing and knocked down operations.

SingPost opens second air freight hub at Changi

Singapore Post has opened its second regional airmail transit centre in the airfreight centre at Changi International Airport.

The centre will handle higher volumes of international mail, packages, parcels and Speedpost items than the existing centre, which has been in operation since 2003.

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Itella subsidiary gains bank status

Itella Payment Systems (IPS) has been granted a licence by Finland's financial supervisory authority to operate as a deposit bank. From 01 January 2012, the Itella Group subsidiary will be renamed Itella Bank.

IPS was established in 2009, licensed initially to act as a payment institution. It complements Itella Information which provides outsourcing for financial and accounting processes using ready-made and modular services.

The new status brings IPS into the banking sector's network. It will allow IPS Bank to enhance its management of invoice and payment traffic associated with its core task of forwarding invoicing related information.

From January, Itella Bank will provide payment services related to electronic business and e-commerce; invoicing services, and e-invoice forwarding. Existing invoicing and payment traffic services will also be available to customers through Itella Bank.

Aramex becomes logistics partner to CareZone

Middle East-based operator Aramex has become the official logistics partner to CareZone, a location-based mobile application which connects brands and consumers and facilitates charitable giving.

CareZone supports a diverse list of causes close to the hearts of consumers in the United Arab Emirates, including the Dubai Autism Centre, K9 Friends and the United Nations World Food Programme.

Consumers choosing to purchase from a CareZone retail partner also choose to support charitable causes.

PostNord announces lower profits in second half

PostNord announced second quarter profits below the level achieved in the same period last year, reporting net sales between April and June of SEK9.71bn, 2% lower than last year, excluding currency changes.

Pre-tax profit was SEK246m compared with SEK254m; operating margin was 2.2% compared with 2.5% and net profit was SEK154m compared with SEK185m.

The company attributed the results to a dramatic drop in mail volume in Denmark and weaker than expected development for its information logistics business. However, the group's logistics business continued to develop according to plan.

Business was more stable in Sweden than in Denmark where a weak economy and strong competition from digital communication channels depressed demand.

Two years after the merger between Posten AB of Sweden and Post Danmark, PostNord says it has entered a new conversion phase and seeks to strengthen efficiency, competitiveness and profitability in the light of an unstable global economy and structural market changes.

PostNord also announced a cost-saving programme that aims to save about SEK1bn from 2013.

The company has also made changes to the group's management structure designed to increase "manoeuvrability" and focus on profitability. The executive vice president, Göran Sällqvist, and the chief financial officer, Bo Friberg, are leaving PostNord. The company is recruiting a new chief financial officer and a group head of corporate strategy.



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It has already appointed Johanna Allert to a new senior position as head of shared services. This function includes production development, environment and total quality management, fleet management, real estate, procurement, shared services accounting and human relations.

PostNord chief executive Lars Idermark said the group needed to leverage growth opportunities in logistics and so during the second quarter, the company acquired Eek Transport in Norway and Nils Hansson Logistics in Sweden.

On 30 August, PostNord acquired the remaining 49% stake in Transportgruppen A/S, which has been 51% owned by Post Danmark since 2007. The acquisition will strengthen PostNord's position in the pallet-load and mixed cargo sector in Denmark and other Nordic countries.

Transportgruppen has already been consolidated into PostNord's logistics business area. Initially, customers will see no changes arising from the new ownership structure, according to PostNord.

PostNL shareholders receive dividend

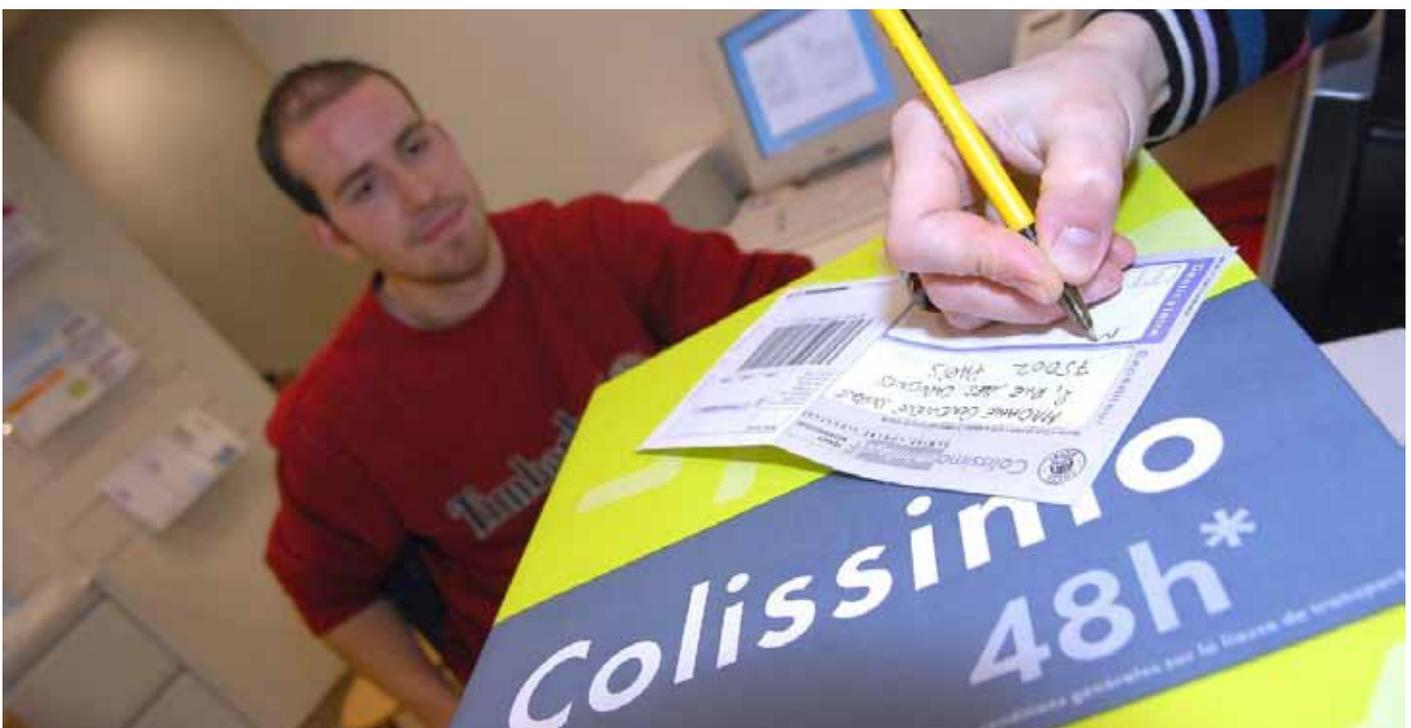
Shareholders representing more than 55% of PostNL's capital have chosen to be paid their interim dividend in shares, gaining 4.6% above the value of the cash dividend. Approximately 12,336,000 new ordinary shares are being issued as stock dividend.

The dividend of €0.214 per ordinary share was paid out on 30 August.

Greek debt cuts Groupe La Poste profits

Groupe La Poste gained higher profits from parcels in the first half year and stable results for its mail business, but La Banque Postale was hit by Greek debt resulting in lower overall group profits.

Group revenue was up by 1.9% on the previous first half at €10.8bn, a 1.1% increase on a like-for-like basis. Operating profits, however, fell by 25.7% to €504m (2.6% lower excluding Greek debt risks). Net profits were down by 21.2% at €377m, but dropped 2.1% on an underlying basis.



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The mail division saw its revenue decline a fractional 0.4% to €5.94bn while volumes dropped by 3.4%. Revenue was helped by favourable pricing and growth in Sofipost, the holding company for mail subsidiaries. Mail profits were stable at €489m, giving an 8.2% profit margin.

The parcels and express division increased operating profit by 20.6% to €206m. Revenues rose by 7.5% to €2.5bn, a rise of 6.5% on an underlying basis. Volumes rose by 5.1% or 4.5% on a like-for-like basis.

The parcels and express division comprises the GeoPost group and French domestic business-to-consumer operator Coliposte. GeoPost increased volumes by 6.5% (6% underlying) and revenues by 8.5% to €1.77bn. Domestic volumes grew by 6.3% and international volumes by 9.7%.

GeoPost's growth was spread across subsidiaries in all countries except Ireland and Spain. The holding company acquired an additional 25% stake in South Africa's DPD Laser on 30 June backdated to 01 April. GeoPost now holds a 75% share and DPD Laser is consolidated within its results. The group also took control of SEUR Internacional in Spain to reinforce its position within the SEUR group.

Coliposte increased its revenues by 5.3% to €734m in the half year and volumes rose by 1.8%.

La Banque Postale raised its revenue by 1.2% to €2.67bn but its profits dropped to €245m owing mainly to a €158m provision for the lower value of Greek investments.

The group confirmed its target of a full year operating profit margin of 3% but warned that the second six months would be marked by uncertainty owing to the slower European economy and movements in financial markets.

Mail holds its own in Swiss Post result

Swiss Post generated group earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) of CHF550m in the first half of 2011, increasing profits from mail year on year and benefitting from higher customer deposits and net interest income at PostFinance. Sales income decreased marginally from CHF4.31bn to CHF4.30bn owing to exchange rate fluctuation.

The communications business achieved an EBIT of CHF 80m. PostMail generated profits of CHF123m, Swiss Post International generated CHF 24m and Swiss Post Solutions

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CHF3m. These were offset by a CHF 70m loss in the Post Offices and Sales division.

PostMail's profit was CHF 14m better than the previous first half owing to efficiency gains, according to the company. The volume of addressed domestic letters rose by 1%. Swiss Post Solutions benefitted from the transfer in 2010 of direct mail business in central Europe to a joint venture with Austrian Post.

Swiss Post's PostLogistics business achieved an operating profit of CHF73m, down from CHF76m last year. The company said parcel volumes dropped by 1.7% owing largely to loss of inbound processing business from Germany, while staff costs increased.

PostFinance improved its operating result further increasing by 20.4% compared with last year from CHF274m to CHF330m, a figure representing 60% of the group's overall operating result. PostBus increased its operating profit from CHF17m to CHF19m.

Higher profits for bpost in the first half year

Higher prices and new activities, including the launch of a parcels service in the United States, helped to increase bpost's profits in the first half year compared with the same period in 2010.

The Belgian company's operating profits rose by 2.6% to €222m and net profits increased slightly to €141.4m.

Overall revenue increased by 2.3% to €1.2bn thanks to higher prices, the US parcels business and a new service delivering EU car number plates.

Costs rose by 2.4% to €931m. The company said productivity rises resulted in a €21m saving in personnel costs but transport and materials costs related to new activities contributed to higher overall expenditure.

Chief executive Johnny Thijs said bpost would have to drive down costs further and step up sales in the second half year in order to meet its goal of matching its performance in 2010.



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PostNord transfers business to a joint venture

PostNord has transferred its cardboard packaging and label business, Strålfors Identification Solutions, to a joint venture between EsonPac Holding AB and its own subsidiary Strålfors AB.

The joint venture agreement merges Strålfors Identification Solutions and EsonPac Holding AB to create EsonPac Group AB with sales of more than SEK1bn.

PostNord said the move was a further step towards streamlining operations within its information logistics business. Posten AB had acquired Strålfors AB in 2006, prior to its merger into PostNord. It has now divested the packaging company in order to focus on its core Strålfors Information Logistics business, providing business communication services such as printing and enveloping, electronic information transfer, third-party logistics and optimisation of customer information flow.

Itella partners with US operator

Finland's Itella Logistics has begun operating under a cooperation deal with Mainfreight USA providing customers with freight forwarding, logistics and warehousing services in the United States.

The company said its aim was to provide global services through partnerships. Mainfreight, founded in New Zealand in 1978, has a domestic distribution network in the US and a presence in Australia, New Zealand and China. It generates group revenue of US\$2bn.

Royal Mail modernisation impacts quality

The British consumer association, Consumer Focus, said Royal Mail had missed its first quarter targets in half the UK's postcodes producing the worst first quarter performance on first and second class mail for four years.

Royal Mail conceded that teething problems with large-scale operational changes and disrupted air services in May due to volcanic ash caused Royal Mail to fall short of its quality of service targets for the first quarter of its financial year from April to June.

In the first part of the period, quality of service for stamped and franked first class mail was 91.4% compared with a

target of 93%. Second class mail achieved a 98.4% quality of service compared with a target of 98.5%.

In the five weeks from early June to mid July, Royal Mail said independent research showed it had reached its first and second class stamped and franked mail targets. Throughout the first quarter, both standard parcels and European international mail performed above target.

Apologising to customers experiencing service below targets, Royal Mail said the company faced a key operational challenge to deliver high-quality customer service while implementing major changes.

Consumer Focus noted however that the modernisation programme had been running since April 2010: "We would expect any teething problems to be over by now", said Consumer Focus director of postal policy and regulation, Robert Hammond.

An Post achieves 84% on-time delivery

An Post has continued its positive trend for improved quality of service with 84% of domestic mail delivered on time in the quarter from April to June.

The figures, released by Irish regulator ComReg, also show that An Post again exceeded its target for delivery of international mail.

The company is investing €40m in new postal processing technology at its Dublin and Portlaoise hubs in one of the biggest capital projects it has undertaken in the past 15 years. An Post has already reconfigured a number of its largest delivery units in Dublin.



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In Time Express gets a new majority owner

Barclays Private Equity has purchased a majority stake in German operator In Time Express from Equity Capital Management which acquired the majority stake in the company in 2007 when its founder retired.

In Time Express specialises in time-critical deliveries for the automotive industry, also serving other manufacturing industries and logistics companies. Since 2007, it has grown its turnover from €45m to €100m, buying RS Logistik in 2008.

The company's managers will continue to own minority shares and, with the support of their new majority owner, they plan to expand further in Europe.

DHL offers end-to-end service for solar panels

DHL is aiming to attract business from China's successful solar panel manufacturing industry by allocating dedicated warehouse space at its Moerdijk distribution centre in the southern Netherlands.

DHL Supply Chain and DHL Global Forwarding are working together to provide end-to-end logistics services for solar panels from China to Europe. DHL's customs subsidiary Gerlach, will manage customs clearance and provide fiscal representation.

Trans-o-flex expands its depot network

German express operator trans-o-flex is expanding its network with a new central hub in Den Bosch, the Netherlands, and two new depots in Bavaria and Brandenburg in Germany. An existing depot in Bruchsal in south-west Germany is being expanded to handle rising volumes and provide capacity for growth.

The Den Bosch hub will handle and deliver shipments in the Netherlands and reduce the workload on depots in Cologne and Duisburg that previously managed collection of shipments in Belgium and the Netherlands.

The new depots in Germany will reduce the workload on depots in Munich, Augsburg and Trebbin.

DHL opens three new links to Africa

DHL Global Forwarding has established a new ocean freight link for less-than-containerload (LCL) shipments to three African countries, shortening transit times by between two and six days.

The links connect Bremen with Tema in Ghana, Cape Town in South Africa and Mombasa in Kenya. DHL said the service would be of interest to customers in the energy, automotive and manufacturing industries seeking options for smaller LCL shipments.

DHL Global Forwarding has 45,000 international line operations and handles almost 2m cubic metres of goods a year.

DHL Supply Chain to lose contract

DHL Supply Chain will lose its delivery contract with Deutsche Telekom. The current contract, which expires on 31 December 2012, involves packing products such as mobile phones and SIM cards and delivering to retail outlets and direct to consumers.

DHL has served Deutsche Telekom from its logistics centre in Euskirchen since 2005. It told workers on 24 August that it had failed to win the tender for the new contract, saying it would spend the next year trying to find replacement orders for Euskirchen.

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TNT expands UK depot
TNT Express UK has extended its depot in Thetford, eastern England, to increase capacity from about 3,000 to 8,000 deliveries a day.

Deutsche Post DHL gets workers volunteering
Deutsche Post DHL encouraged its employees, customers and business partners around the world to participate in "Global Volunteer Day" between 01 and 10 September. More than

50,000 employees took part in more than 600 charitable projects this year with activities coordinated across the group.

PostBus wins new French contract

Swiss Post's PostBus won a contract for an express service in France's Isère region in June. It restructured the Villefranche-sur-Saône network last year, implementing its intermodal system linking bus and rail transport.



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