



## **DHL Express and SmartLynx Malta partner to break new ground in cargo transportation**

- **Companies announce signing of a new partnership agreement**
- **SmartLynx Malta will support Express Division of Deutsche Post DHL Group with two Airbus A321-200 freighter aircraft**
- **The fuel-efficient aircraft is the most technologically advanced and environmentally efficient aircraft in its class**

**Bonn/Birkirkara, February 24, 2021:** DHL Express, the world's leading express service provider, and SmartLynx Malta announce the signing of a new partnership agreement for the introduction of two newly converted Airbus A321-200 freighters joining DHL's European air fleet. The new technically advanced narrow-body fleet type is adding capacity to meet the increasing demand for express cargo transportation worldwide combined with further improving DHL's unit Co2 emissions by introducing the most fuel efficient narrow-body aircraft in its class. .

SmartLynx is a family member of Avia Solutions Group, the largest aerospace business group from Central & Eastern Europe, and has extensive experience operating the A321 family of aircraft. This agreement sets a new hallmark as SmartLynx's Malta subsidiary enters into the freighter market.

"We at DHL pride ourselves as the global industry pioneer when it comes to introducing new generation conversion freighter types to the market" says Geoff Kehr, Senior Vice President Global Air Fleet Management at DHL Express. "Continually modernizing our fleet with the most efficient and reliable cargo aircraft produced is vital to our success. Having led the world with the A330-300P2F development and successful implementation, it is only natural we would follow on by adding the smaller A321 family aircraft to our global freighter fleet".

The partnership comes as both a confirmation and a recognition of SmartLynx Malta's standing in the aviation industry, and its place in supporting the growing demand for air cargo capacity. Increasing demand for e-commerce shipments and also highly important protective and medical goods, require additional air cargo capacity. The fuel-efficient Airbus A321-200 achieves superior unit reductions in CO2 emissions compared to similar class freighter models. By investing in these aircraft, SmartLynx Malta illustrates its commitment towards embracing a future focused on cleaner, more sustainable air freight carriage.

"We are pleased to share the news about the latest addition to our client portfolio. By supporting DHL with two freighter units, our partner is advancing their readiness to respond to a growing air cargo demand", says Zygimantas Surintas, CEO of SmartLynx Malta. "We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all of the DHL team for their belief that we are both willing and capable of providing the highest-class product in keeping with their expectations. This development is a substantial step forward in our strategic plans for the future. DHL is a leading air transport capacity, and having strong

# Press release



partnerships is a decisive factor to growing our business even further and in a cleaner, more sustainable manner."

Smartlynx Malta is planning to add two additional A321Fs during 2021 and up to four units during 2022, with a business target of becoming one of the largest narrow-body cargo freight carriers within the next three years.

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## **DHL – The logistics company for the world**

**DHL** is the leading global brand in the logistics industry. Our DHL divisions offer an unrivalled portfolio of logistics services ranging from national and international parcel delivery, e-commerce shipping and fulfillment solutions, international express, road, air and ocean transport to industrial supply chain management. With about 380,000 employees in more than 220 countries and territories worldwide, DHL connects people and businesses securely and reliably, enabling global sustainable trade flows. With specialized solutions for growth markets and industries including technology, life sciences and healthcare, engineering, manufacturing & energy, auto-mobility and retail, DHL is decisively positioned as "The logistics company for the world".

DHL is part of Deutsche Post DHL Group. The Group generated revenues of more than 63 billion euros in 2019. With sustainable business practices and a commitment to society and the environment, the Group makes a positive contribution to the world. Deutsche Post DHL Group aims to achieve zero-emissions logistics by 2050.

## **About SmartLynx Airlines**

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Founded in 1992 SmartLynx is the second largest Latvia-based airline. SmartLynx specializes in full-service ACMI (Aircraft-Crew-Maintenance-Insurance) aircraft lease services on Airbus A320 and A321 aircraft. The airline also ensures full charter operation for its home markets in Latvia and Estonia, predominantly in the leisure market. In 2020 the airline have expanded its service portfolio with plans to further establish position in the world of air cargo transportation.

SmartLynx Training Centre is a well-recognised airline pilot training company in the Baltic States providing type rating courses for Airbus A320 series.

SmartLynx Airlines is a family member of Avia Solutions Group, the largest aerospace business group from Central & Eastern Europe with 90 offices and production stations providing aviation services and solutions worldwide. Avia Solutions Group unites a team of more than 7000 professionals, providing state-of-the-art solutions to aviation industry and beyond. For more information please visit: [www.smartlynx.aero](http://www.smartlynx.aero) and [www.aviasg.com](http://www.aviasg.com).