

Hahn opens road feeder facility near Frankfurt Airport



Stuart Todd | Freitag, 03 Oktober 2014

Hub aims to provide closer link with forwarders and greater connectivity for pan-European distribution



Germany's Hahn Airport has set up its own road feeder services (RFS) centre for pan-European distribution at Moerfelden-Walldorf, six kilometres from Europe's largest air freight hub Frankfurt Airport, to improve connections with the area's freight forwarders.

The move is linked with Hahn being added to Air China Cargo's round-the-world B777 freighter service earlier this month. Three weekly stops in Hahn, which is situated about 110 kilometres from Frankfurt Main, bring in cargo from Asia and North America and pick up European-origin cargo.

The airport's head of business development, Christoph Goetzmann, told Lloyd's Loading List.com, that the RFS facility had been a key factor in Air China deciding to locate in Hahn. "It will also be a plus point in the discussions we are currently engaged in with other freighter operators," he said. "Hahn's package of 24/7 opening and competitive rates are now complemented by real connectivity in terms of trucking services across Europe as never before."

He said the area around Frankfurt Main was a major hub for RFS on a European scale. "Those shippers and forwarders who wish to truck directly from Hahn will continue to be able to do so. But having a facility in the vicinity of Frankfurt will enable us to feed customers' cargo into the mainstream networks in Europe for road-borne shipments and with all the flexibility that offers," Goetzmann explained.

"The RFS will also serve as a consolidation centre for export traffic to be shipped out ex-Hahn by freighter."

After losing significant freight volumes in 2013, partly as a result of the collapse of the airline Air Cargo Germany, things have been looking up this year for Hahn. In addition to the arrival of Air China Cargo, Azerbaijan-based operator Silk Way is increasing its weekly freighter flights between Hahn and Baku from four to six, using a mix of B747-8 and B747-400 aircraft, Goetzmann revealed. "Baku serves as a hub for cargo destined for Asia," he said.

Meanwhile, start-up Slovakia-based cargo airline Air Cargo Global (ACG) has based a B747-400SF at Hahn, where it is carrying out ad hoc and charter work. A second aircraft is on the point of being delivered and this will enable ACG to operate a scheduled service, although its initial plans are to operate scheduled services from Frankfurt Main airport, sources close to the airline indicate. "But we are not giving up hope that it could be from Hahn," Goetzmann added.

ACG is thought to be eyeing the launch of a Frankfurt-Dubai-Hong Kong route from the middle of October.

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