

# IATA WORLD CARGO SYMPOSIUM

Dubai, UAE  
15 – 17 April 2025

## ULD FORUM AGENDA

Kindly sponsored by;



Host Partner

Host Airline

The logo for dnata, consisting of the word "dnata" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a stylized blue 'd'.

The logo for Emirates SkyCargo, featuring the Arabic word "إمارات" (Emirates) in white on a red background, with "Emirates SkyCargo" in white text below it.

The logo for IATA, featuring a white globe icon with wings on either side, and the word "IATA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font below it.

09:00 - 09:10

**Opening Address**

**ULD: Revolutionizing the Future of Air Cargo with Constant Innovation**  
**Manoj Menon, Manager, ULD Logistics, Emirates**

09:10 - 09:25

**Future Aircraft: Catalysts or Constraints for ULD Design and Operations?**

Despite the operational constraints imposed by aircraft on ULD design and functionality, innovation is possible. This session will delve into the concept of future aircraft and investigate how next-generation technologies can revolutionize ULD design and reengineer aircraft loading operations. We will explore the interplay between aircraft limitations and ULD innovation, uncovering how advancements in aircraft design, digitalization, automation, and connectivity can unlock new potentials. The aircraft could be an enabler, and attendees are encouraged to share their needs and goals to help shape the future of aircraft.

**Frédéric Brocard, Smart Freighter project lead, A350F Chief engineer team, Airbus Commercial Aircraft**

09:25 - 10:15

**Presentations and Panel Discussion:**

**Unlocking Automation Potential in ULD Operations: Industry Transformations Needed**

Can robots replace humans in ULD operations, such as ULD build-up? What are the fundamental requirements or prerequisites for automation in ULD operations? What challenges might necessitate redesigning ULDs and reengineering the entire cargo handling process?

This session will foster dialogue between ULD users and engineers, encouraging all attendees to actively share their innovative ideas.

**Leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Enhanced ULD Operations**

**Dr.-Ing. Harald Sieke, Head of Center for Logistics and Mobility, Fraunhofer Institute for Materialflow and Logistics**

**Automation Opportunities in ULD Operations: Insights from ULD Manufacturers**

**Louise Platell, Innovation Engineer, VRR**

Moderator:

**Dr.-Ing. Harald Sieke, Head of Center for Logistics and Mobility, Fraunhofer Institute for Materialflow and Logistics**

Panelists:

**Louise Platell, Innovation Engineer, VRR**

**Sam Gould, Head of Cargo Services, Singapore, dnata**

**Frédéric Brocard, Smart Freighter project lead, A350F Chief engineer team, Airbus Commercial Aircraft**



- 10:15 – 10:25**     **From Vision to Reality: Achieving End-to-End Real-Time ULD Tracking with ONE Record**  
This presentation explores the transformative potential of ONE Record in revolutionizing the air cargo industry by enabling real-time data sharing and visibility across all ULD stakeholders. We will also discuss the opportunities for new value-added services, process optimization, and enhanced customer satisfaction, alongside the challenges of technical integration, data security, and the need for industry-wide collaboration. Join us to navigate the journey towards achieving end-to-end real-time ULD tracking with IATA ONE Record.  
**Simon Gutschlag, Vice President, Product Management Aviation IoT Solutions, Descartes Systems Group**
- 10:25 – 10:35**     **Embracing Digitalization in ULD to Measure Sustainability Targets for Shippers**  
As pharmaceutical companies increasingly commit to sustainability initiatives amid evolving regulatory requirements and industry standards, the role of digitalization becomes crucial. This presentation will showcase how digitalized ULDs can collect and report sustainability-related data, enabling pharmaceutical companies to effectively monitor and measure their greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.  
**Nicholas Martin, Chief Operating Officer, swiss airtainer**
- 10:35 – 10:45**     **Creating Value through Comprehensive Airline ULD Digitalization**  
The digitization of ULD management in the cargo supply chain is transforming the industry. By collaborating closely with customers and partners, enhanced digital tracking technology provides full visibility of the ULD fleet for airlines. Innovative mobile-app and customer portal solutions enable various parties in the supply chain to significantly improve ULD and cargo handling operations, resulting in cost efficiencies and improved logistics. This initiative not only boosts operational performance but also provides valuable insights and creates value through digital transformation solutions.  
**Bas Vermeer, Chief Information Officer, Unilode Aviation Solutions**
- 10:45 – 10:55**     **Fenced Aircraft Pallet: Enhancing e-Commerce Carriage by Air and Facilitating ULD Repositioning**  
The exponential growth of e-Commerce, especially from East to West, coupled with the persistent challenges of ULD imbalance, particularly the repositioning of aircraft containers, demands innovative industry solutions. This presentation introduces the groundbreaking design of the fenced aircraft pallet. This design not only facilitates the efficient loading of e-Commerce packages but also simplifies ULD repositioning, offering a significant weight reduction compared to traditional aircraft containers.  
**Ying Su, General Manager Assistant, Shanghai HangYi Aviation Ground Equipment Manufacturing**
- 10:55 – 11:00**     **Wrap-up**  
**Manoj Menon, Manager, ULD Logistics, Emirates**
- 11:00 - 11:30**     **Networking Break - WCS Exhibition Hall**
- 11:30 - 13:00**     **WCS 2025 Closing Plenary**