



MPW Supply Chain Consultancy

Oceanfreight Airfreight Local Transport Courier Warehousing/3PL

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MPW SUPPLY CHAIN – INDUSTRY UPDATE – 10th APRIL 2024

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

GOVT COMMITS \$45M TO FREIGHT-ROUTE UPGRADES

The Federal government has committed \$45 million to 19 priority freight-route safety upgrades.

Around \$25 million would go to 14 projects under the Bridges Renewal Program, and the other \$20 million to five projects under the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSP).

HVSP aims to support improvements to roads that are part of freight routes. This includes the installation of intersections, widening roads, sealing roads and installing safety barriers to increase the productivity and safety of heavy vehicle operations. [TheDCN](#)

NEW SHIPS FOR ANL SERVICES

Brand new containers ordered or chartered by parent CMA CGM are being introduced to ANL's Australian services.

The 6014 TEU CMA CGM Zingaro arrived in Melbourne April 2nd replacing the 20 year old 5770 TEU CMA CGM Bellini.

ANL/CMA CGM will also soon take delivery of a sister, CMA CGM Baikal, which is due in Australia in June as a replacement for A3N's CMA CGM Chiopin. These new vessels have been developed to be highly flexible with future fuel types and can easily be adapted to operate on ammonia or methanol if required. [TheDCN](#)

PROTESTS SET TO HIT MELBOURNE WATERFRONT AGAIN

Landside users of the Port of Melbourne have been warned to expect a new round of disruptions as the arrival of a ZIM containership attracts the attention of protesters. [TheDCN](#)

OCEANFREIGHT

MORE SHIPS ATTACHED AS HOUSTON CLAIM DANGER AREA 'EXPANDING'

The past week has seen an increase in attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, and a Houthi spokesperson has sparked fears of the 'danger area' expanding into the Arabian Sea.

Eight consecutive days of attack-free shipping in the Red Sea, between 23 March and 1 April, marked the longest quiet streak since December, when containerships began diverting around the Cape of Good Hope. However, in the past week, UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) has confirmed two attacks on vessels, the most recent yesterday, 111km south-west of Al Hudaydah, Yemen. [TheLoadstar.com](#)

BALTIMORE: LINERS REROUTING, BUT AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY CHAINS WILL BE HARDEST HIT

MSC, Maersk and Zim are the three carriers most exposed to the supply chain disruption stemming from the collapsed bridge at Baltimore, according to analysis from S&P Global Market Intelligence. It shows that the three carriers collectively represent nearly three-quarters of Baltimore's container import traffic: in the 12 months to the end of February, MSC accounted for 31.5%, with 145,734 teu; Maersk, 21.8%, with 100,800 teu; and Zim 19.8%. [TheLoadstar.com](#)

WALLENIUS WILHELMSSEN COULD SEE \$10M HIT FROM CAR-CARRIER STRANDED AT BALTIMORE

Wallenius Wilhelmsen could suffer a \$10m financial hit after the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge stranded its car-carrier Carmen in Baltimore harbour.

The Carmen was making preparations to leave the port at the time of last week's collision, which caused the bridge to collapse, blocking the harbour access channel. [TheLoadstar.com](#)

SUPPLY CHAIN NEWS

REPORTS OF UNSAFE TRUCK DRIVING ON EYRE HIGHWAY AMID INCREASED FREIGHT TRAFFIC CAUSED BY RAIL CLOSURE

Transport bodies say increased freight traffic on the Eyre Highway caused by the closure of a railway line to Perth after flooding in Western Australia has put truck drivers at greater risk.

A section of the Trans-Australian rail line was closed between March 12–30, which meant essential goods usually transported by train had to be moved by truck drivers on the Eyre Highway.

South Australian Road Transport Association chief officer Steve Shearer said there were reports of unsafe behaviour on the highway amid the heavier traffic. [ABC News](#)

THE CRANE USED TO HAUL AWAY THE FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE HAD A SECRET ROLE IN THE COLD WAR

The floating crane tasked with hauling shattered steel from last week's fatal bridge collapse in Baltimore played a much different role in the Cold War.

The crane, The Chesapeake 1000, nicknamed Chessy, has taken many roles over the decades but it's most notable operation until last week was a secret mission to retrieve a sunken Soviet submarine. [ABC News](#)

ELECTRIC HARBOUR-CRAFT CHARGING TRIAL GOES LIVE IN SINGAPORE

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore has launched its first trial of an electric harbour-craft charging point.

The pilot trial at the Marina South Pier follows a call last year for proposals to develop and operate electric harbour-craft charging points, as part of a move toward the adoption of electric harbour craft at the port. [TheDCN](#)

AIRFREIGHT

AIR CARGO DEMAND RISES 11% IN MARCH

Global air cargo market demand rose 11% year on year for a third consecutive month in March and it was no surprise that e-commerce and Red Sea shipping disruption helped propel volumes. Releasing its latest analysis, Xeneta said that the higher volumes seen in the first quarter of the year have outpaced capacity growth, which increased by 8% year on year.

AIRFREIGHT SHIFT AS TAIWAN EARTHQUAKE IMPACTS SEMICONDUCTOR PRODUCTION

The airfreight market could see a temporary shift, owing to changes in semi-conductor production, following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Taiwan on 3/4/2024.

The earthquake, Taiwan's largest in 25 years, caused at least nine fatalities and injured an estimated 900 people, and hit the world's largest production centre for semiconductors.

It has already affected airfreight rates, according to supply chain experts. [TheLoadstar.com](#)

SHIPPING DISRUPTION AND E-COMMERCE DEMAND DRIVING UP AIRFREIGHT RATES

The start of the airline summer season this month is likely to hit airfreight rates with an increasing amount of belly capacity on passenger routes.

But right now, despite the major trade lanes not seeing significant changes, there remain pockets of high volumes.

"Space is still congested across all India origin airports, as well transshipment points," said an industry contact. [TheLoadstar.com](#)