South African Airways Cargo partners with STAT Trade Times for AIR CARGO AFRICA 2017

Johannesburg, 22 August 2016 (STAT): South African Airways Cargo (SAA Cargo), the airfreight division of South African Airways, has partnered with the STAT Trade Times publication for the Air Cargo Africa (ACA) 2017 conference and exhibition at the Emperors Palace in Johannesburg from 21-23 February.

SAA Cargo accounts for more than 50% of all air freight movements into and within South Africa and moved 115000 tons of freight to key markets across the globe in the financial year ended March 2016. The flagship carrier and leading international airline is all set to welcome the global airfreight community to one of the most vibrant economies of Africa as they convene for this international networking event.

SAA Cargo has been chosen as the ‘Airfreight and Airline Partner’ extending its warm support to all prospective participants for the event. (Use the Promo Code ACA2017 to receive discounted fares on your flight booking via www.flysaa.com). The number of participants has increased over the years, which confirms the event’s significance and relevance to the African airfreight industry. It will be the third time this international event is held in South Africa. SAA Cargo participated as a sponsor in 2013 and 2015. As a ‘Diamond Sponsor’ for 2017, SAA Cargo will be paving the way for further expansion of the airfreight industry on the African continent.

Commenting on the decision of the cargo division of the award-winning airline General Manager of SAA Cargo, Tleli Makhetha says, “We are excited to once again enter into a partnership with STAT Trade Times after the success of the previous conferences and exhibitions. We look forward to making a contribution to a discussion focusing on Africa’s economic growth prospects.”

ACA 2017 brings together air cargo industry leaders, general sales agents, ground handlers, shippers, traders, and the media from all over the world. It provides a platform for lively debates and unlimited networking and business opportunities. The forum will explore and assess the enormous potential of airfreight on the continent.

“We are elated that SAA Cargo has seized an opportunity to take the African airfreight community to greater heights at the International Biennial Air Cargo event, AIR CARGO AFRICA 2017 organized by us in Johannesburg from 21-23 February 2017. That this will be the fourth conference and exhibition speaks volumes about the opportunities that the event has been able to provide to the various air cargo and logistics players in the industry,” says Priyo Patra, Director of events, STAT Media Group.
Airfreight plays a critical role in revenue generation for airlines and is estimated to be worth about USD 6.8 trillion globally. SAA Cargo contributes substantially to SAA’s group revenue. Overall air freight accounts for 35% of goods traded globally, which includes high-value commodities, perishables and time-sensitive shipments. Airfreight industry is the significant contributor to economic growth and it continues to evolve taking advantage of the growing markets like Africa. Air freight transported by African carriers have seen a steady increase in recent times signifying the strides that Africa is making in its shift towards economic growth.

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**About South African Airways Cargo (SAAC):** SAAC is a specialist division of South African Airways (SAA), South Africa's flag carrier and largest domestic and international airline company, focusing on freight movement worldwide. It makes use of the belly space of SAA's passenger aircraft and its dedicated Boeing 737-300 freighters. SAAC has devoted considerable resources to the improvement and installation of facilities to handle all types of cargo and its vision is to be the leader in air cargo services between Africa and the world. It has received various prestigious awards for service and innovation. These include “African Cargo Airline of the year” twice in STAT Times International Awards for Excellence in Air Cargo and “Best Airline in Africa” at the Skytrax awards, the independent, global airline rating organization, for the 14th year in a row. SAA Cargo was also named among the top 3 African Cargo Airlines at Cargo Airline of Year 2016 organized by Air Cargo News.

**About AIR CARGO AFRICA 2017:** AIR CARGO AFRICA is an international biennial series of events conceptualized to showcase Africa’s air cargo potential on a global scale. The third edition of these biennial events held in Johannesburg in 2015 gathered a record number of 80 exhibitors from 32 global countries and 29 African countries, 2915 trade visitors and 527 delegates. The event attracted 29 leading minds in the industry for deliberation on topical issues.

**Exhibitor Listing:**
- **Diamond Sponsors:** South African Airways Cargo
- **Platinum Sponsors:** Swissport Cargo Services, Worldwide Flight Services
- **Gold Sponsors:** Airports Company South Africa

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