Press release

virgin atlantic cargo

Please find here a news release issued today by Virgin Atlantic Cargo:

Media contact: Jamie Roche, JRPR
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T: +44 (0) 1344 631880/1/3
E: jamie@jamierochepr.co.uk

LIGHTWEIGHT CARGO NETS CONTRIBUTE TO VIRGIN ATLANTIC'S CO_2 EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET

Virgin Atlantic Cargo is to start using lightweight air cargo nets with Dyneema® as part of its ongoing contribution towards the airline's target of reducing aircraft CO_2 emissionsby 30% by 2020.

The airline has initially ordered 600 of the nets, which at nine kilos each represent a four kilos saving on the weight of a traditional cargo net used to secure shipments on pallets. The nets are also designed to be highly durable and have a five-year operating life compared to an average 2-3 years for conventional nets.

Paul Fallon, Vice President – Cargo Operations & Business Development at Virgin Atlantic, said: "The airline has a very proactive sustainability programme with clear goals and we are continually looking to meet our contribution to these targets. Last year we took delivery of our first lightweight cargo containers and using lightweight nets is another opportunity for us to reduce emissions. We expect to have some 1,800 of these nets in use by the end of 2015. We are also looking at the latest lightweight pallets that have come onto the market and expect to trial these to measure the benefits they can offer too."

Linda Rutten, Marketing Manager Aviation at DSM Dyneema, said: "We are proud to be able to support Virgin Atlantic Cargo's sustainability efforts by cooperating on durable lightweight solutions that truly make a difference. Using air cargo nets made with Dyneema® has clear benefits extending from increased aircraft fuel efficiency and hence fewer emissions."

Virgin Atlantic Cargo has already invested in more than 1,100 lightweight LD3 containers as part of a programme to phase out 3,200 heavier air cargo units. The new containers are 16 kilos lighter than the old LD3s they have replaced. Every extra gram of weight onboard an aircraft means more fuel use and more emissions. Replacing old, heavier cargo bins and pallets with lighter ones will save around 2,000 tonnes in CO2 emissions.

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About DSM Dyneema
DSM Dyneema is the inventor and manufacturer of Ultra High Molecular Weight PolyEthylene (UHMWPE) fiber branded as Dyneema®, the world's strongest fiber™. Dyneema® offers maximum strength combined with minimum weight. It is up to 15 times stronger than quality steel and up to 40% stronger than aramid fibers, both on weight for weight basis. Dyneema® fiber floats on water and is extremely durable and resistant to moisture, UV light and chemicals. The applications are therefore more or less unlimited. Dyneema® is an important component in ropes, cables and nets in the fishing, shipping and offshore industries. Dyneema® is also used in safety gloves for the metalworking industry and in fine yarns for applications in sporting goods and the medical sector. In addition, Dyneema® is also used in bullet resistant armor and clothing for police and military personnel. UHMWPE fiber from DSM Dyneema is produced in Heerlen (The Netherlands) and in Greenville, North Carolina (U.S.A.). DSM Dyneema is also a partner in a high modulus polyethylene (HMPE) manufacturing joint venture in Japan. Further information on DSM Dyneema is available at www.dyneema.com .