

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

STRONG TRANSATLANTIC GAINS IN 2013 FOR VIRGIN ATLANTIC CARGO

Traffic from the United States to India, business gains in the U.S. North East and more perishables traffic all contributed to transatlantic tonnage, revenue and market share gains for Virgin Atlantic Cargo in 2013.

The airline's ability to offer fast connections over London to both Delhi and Mumbai attracted strong customer support during the year. Cargo volumes from Miami to Delhi were up 50% year-on-year while US-origin cargo via London to Mumbai recorded particularly strong gains from both Atlanta and Miami.

Newark continued to be one of the airline's strongest U.S. routes, with revenue and tonnage ex London up 25% and eastbound volumes growing by 60% compared to 2012. Cargo traffic from New York JFK to London Heathrow climbed 20% over the course of the year and freight shipments from Boston to the UK grew 17%. Revenue between London and San Francisco rose 15%.

From the UK to the U.S., excluding Canada, the airline carried over 63 million kilos in 2013.

Virgin Atlantic has been particularly successful in growing its share of the air cargo market in the U.S. North East. In addition to its strong performance to and from New York and Boston, the airline also achieved an 11% increase in tonnage from Washington DC as overall tonnage from the U.S. North East to the UK finished the year 13% higher.

Dan Parker, Vice President Commercial at Virgin Atlantic Cargo, said: "The transatlantic market remains highly competitive but for us 2013 was a good year with gains across our U.S. destinations. Our total tonnage and revenue from the UK to the U.S. was 10% up year-on-year. Perishables traffic contributed strongly to the U.S. Canada and Mexico, notably fish shipments to Vancouver and San Francisco. We were also successful in gaining more business in Europe for our North American services with Milan and Paris now in our top 15 origin stations for freight going to the US. Looking ahead to the prospects for 2014, we expect the market to remain steady and do not expect any big increases or decreases in shipment levels."

He added: "We are meeting regularly with our colleagues at Delta to explore new opportunities as a result of our trans-Atlantic alliance. Both airlines have successful and innovative cargo businesses and we share a commitment to delivering the highest levels of customer service. We are confident we will both be able to offer exciting new services and opportunities that will benefit our customers on both sides of the Atlantic."

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