

Henan Sets Out to Conquer the Cargo World

Posted by **Alex Kwanten** | **June 19, 2014**

For the much of the last year, China's Henan province has been in the news for its acquisition (through investment arm Henan Civil Aviation and Investment Co, or HNCA) of a 35% stake in Luxembourg-based all-cargo carrier Cargolux. But that now looks to be only one part of a broad attempt by the province to turn Xinzheng Airport (CGO) in the provincial capital of Zhengzhou into a major worldwide airfreight hub.

Immediately following the finalization of the Cargolux agreement, the Henan Airport Group announced the signing of an agreement with Frankfurt-Hahn Airport (HHN). And this in turn was followed in late May with a strategic cooperation agreement between the Henan Airport Group and Mitteldeutsche Airport Holding, the parent of Leipzig-Halle Airport (LEJ).

The agreement with Frankfurt-Hahn is part of something called the World Cargo Airport Alliance, an initiative supported by Henan-based forwarder BST Logistics and its partner Navitras earlier this year. [BST recently ACMI-leased a 747-8F from Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, and is using the freighter on a three-times-weekly round-the-world route from Zhengzhou to the US, then onward to Frankfurt-Hahn and back to Zhengzhou. According to airport CEO Markus Bunk, one of Frankfurt-Hahn's goals \(to be realized via the agreement with Henan Airport Group\) is to double the frequency of that service to six flights a week.](#) Add in that Leipzig also expects to see cargo traffic from Zhengzhou increase, and one has to ask just how much of this particular pie is going to be left for Cargolux. CGO reported a cargo handle of 256,000 tonnes in 2013. To put that volume in perspective, Hong Kong International handles over 330,000 tonnes every month. CGO is only the twelfth-busiest cargo airport in China, and barely registers on a worldwide list.