

Combined expertise gives lift to Aero Africa

No fewer than 84 airports in 54 countries form part of the extensive network-building phase of Aero Africa, the continent's newest 'kid' on the block for neutral airfreight consolidations out of Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

As far as collective experience is concerned, Aero Africa is no 'youngster'.

Its CEO, **Christos Spyrou**, an industry veteran of sorts, furthermore characterised the build-up to the new brand as "a long and interesting journey".

Speaking at the company's recent launch, long overdue because of lockdown delays, Spyrou said the roots of the new outfit went back some 10 years to African Express.

He explained that the idea



Christos Spyrou – CEO & Founder.

with Aero Africa's precursor had always been to copy the neutral airfreight model and take it to Kenya, using East Africa's leading economy as a springboard.

"We always had the vision to create a neutral, centralised, simplified, but sophisticated air

solutions platform for Africa," Spyrou said.

Strong strides

When faster-than-expected volume out of the Far East finally made it necessary to set up a base in Hong Kong, strong strides had already been taken to offer brokering solutions for small and medium-sized Chinese freight forwarders.

Wind the clock on and the emergence of Aero Africa, shortly before the global coronavirus outbreak, was easily one of the most eagerly anticipated company developments by the airfreight fraternity.

With **Jade da Costa** steering its commercial operations, the consolidator could also not have asked for someone with more airfreight acumen – a veritable dab hand at consol complexities and related aspects such as last-mile efficiencies.

Backed by a tight team

of professionals, Da Costa and co, in a very short space of time, connected an awful number of dots, creating a network of partners offering block-space agreements (BSA) and the like into markets across Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Impressive network

Whether it's Manchester, Brussels, Munich, Casablanca, Dakar or Nairobi, Aero Africa has already established a solid footprint in Europe and Africa.

Out east, the airfreight broker now also boasts offices in Guangzhou and Shanghai, in addition to its long-standing foothold in Hong Kong.

To have established such a solid network in so little time, Covid-related supply-chain challenges aside, is a testimony to the driven dedication of Da Costa and his team.

Add to that recent developments such as Aero Africa's announcement that it now also offers BSA options out of India and US, and it comes as no surprise that the company's launch was held from a lofty perch in Bedfordview, overlooking



Jade da Costa – Chief Commercial Officer.

the skyline of Johannesburg.

"We have waited for this day for two long years," Da Costa told a selection of guests representing the who's who of the

forwarding fraternity.

"We have a long road ahead of us," he added.

"But we have the right industry partners to help us on our journey."

Who's who in freight

A brief mention of some of the VIPs present at the launch, including those who joined remotely, shows why Da Costa is confident that Aero Africa's future is secure through expertise

– **Cacho Cabral** of Take Off, **Garry Marshall** from BidAir Cargo, **Peter Schmidt-Löffler** of Leschaco, **Sean Moore** of Ziegler, **Martin Keck** of SACO CFR, **Peter Whitfield** of UAC inc in the US, **Ronald Sierat** of NFS Airfreight BV Netherlands, **Michael Jaensch** of Aeroconsol GmbH Germany, **Mazhar Ali** of SA Group India, **Sander van Woesik** of TCS Time Critical Solutions BV Netherlands, **Lino Silvio** of Cel Aviation Mauritius, and **Hélène Dimopoulou** of SETCargo France.



Jarryd Niescior – Regional Operations Manager (Employee of the Year).



AEROAFRICA
CONSOLIDATING AFRICA

www.aero-africa.com



Important International Guests (from left to right): **Sander Van Woesik**; **Christos Spyrou**; **Samantha Pyper**; **Hélène Dimopoulou**; **Mazhar Ali** and **Michael Jaensch**.