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Challenge Group Signs with AERCAP for Two Additional converted 777-300ERSF, the 'Big Twins'

Challenge Group concluded 2024 with remarkable accomplishments, solidifying its status as a key player in the air cargo industry. The Group expanded its fleet to 10 aircraft, completing its 767 conversion program, operated over 4,000 flights, transported more than 200,000 tons of cargo and obtained the CEIV Lithium Battery certification to complete its existing Pharma and Live Animals certifications. Key shipments included 5,000 horses, 600 aircraft engines and over 25,000 e-commerce and dangerous. Additionally, the Group introduced five new destinations to its schedule network: Milan, Dubai, Mumbai, Delhi, and Nairobi. These achievements mark the start of even more significant milestones to come.

Building on its 2024 success, Challenge Group announced last week, in a Press conference, the leasing of two additional Boeing 777-300ERSF converted freighters from AERCAP, becoming the first operator in Europe to introduce this aircraft type. Known as the "Big Twins," these aircraft are unique as they are passenger-to-freighter conversions, offering greater cargo capacity and improved fuel efficiency.

This milestone was celebrated on January 17th at Challenge Group's Malta Head Office with a ceremony attended by the Prime Minister of Malta, Robert Abela; the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, and Public Works, Chris Bonett; The Groups founders and owners, Mr. Offer Gilboa and Eshel Heffetz, along with other distinguished guests, including Kurt Farrugia, CEO of Transport Malta, and Charles Pace, Director General of the Civil Aviation Directorate.

Yossi Shoukroun, CEO of Challenge Group, highlighted the significance of the occasion, stating: "Today marks a historic moment for Challenge Group and Malta's aviation sector. The registration of the first-ever Boeing 777-300ERSF converted freighters in Europe under the 9H AOC is a testament to our relentless pursuit of innovation and excellence. These aircraft, with their unparalleled capabilities, will enable us to meet the growing demands of global trade and reinforce our position as a key enabler in the supply chain."

Looking ahead, Challenge Group's focus for 2025 is on strategic growth and operational excellence. After a rapid development, the Group will consolidate its network to ensure sustainable growth while pursuing new market opportunities. With these ambitious goals, Challenge Group is set to further solidify its position as a trusted partner in the global air cargo industry.

About Challenge Group

Challenge Group is a unique, international air cargo conglomerate offering tailored and integrated end-to-end logistics solutions from airfreight, handling, and ground logistics to maintenance and aviation services, for a wide range of industries and commodities.

Challenge Group operates a fleet of Boeing 747 and 767 freighters and employs over 1000 people across three airlines (Challenge Airlines IL in Israel, Challenge Airlines BE in Belgium, Challenge Airlines MT in Malta), a commercial division (Challenge Air Cargo), a ground handling company (Challenge Handling in Liege, Belgium), a Global road feeder provider (Challenge Logistics), an aircraft and parts leasing division (Challenge Aviation), and a comprehensive line maintenance provider (Challenge Technic). The company has tripled its capacity over the past four years, now handling over 500,000 tons of cargo annually.