

## **New Dube terminal operator named**

August 27, 2009 *Edition 1*

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KwaZulu-Natal's dream of becoming a global player in the air cargo trade moved closer to becoming reality yesterday when leading global aviation handling group Worldwide Flight Services was announced as the exclusive operator of the cargo facility at the new R8 billion Dube TradePort and international airport at La Mercy, north of Durban.

The appointment, a milestone in the project, was revealed by Economic Development and Tourism MEC Mike Mabuyakhulu, together with WFS South Africa CEO Pablo Garcia and Dube TradePort boss Rohan Persad in Durban last night.

Mabuyakhulu said WFS had been appointed on a five-year contract to operate the state-of-the-art airfreight cargo facility - the first of its kind on the African continent.

"We are hugely excited to announce WFS as the new Dube TradePort cargo terminal operator to help achieve our objectives of becoming the air cargo terminal of choice in the South African market. WFS bring with them the experience and global knowledge of operating some 120 cargo terminals across the world... in the prevailing difficult times of a global recession, we are delighted to have secured an operator of this calibre," he added.

Persad said: "Securing this operating contract for Dube TradePort marks our first entry into not only the continent but the economic powerhouse of South Africa. This now makes us a truly global player with operations on all continents," said Garcia.

WFS's executive chairman, Olivier Bijaoui, said: "The new La Mercy international airport development clearly recognises the importance of providing world class cargo facilities for its airline and logistics clients."