



European hub to be relocated to Schiphol

One of the most exciting developments for Polar Air Cargo in the coming months will be the relocation of its main European hub back to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol in the Netherlands, a move that is scheduled to take place progressively in October 2004.

According to Hendrik Falk, Polar's Vice President of Sales for Europe, Middle-East and Africa, "We have been looking forward to this move for a number of months now. The Amsterdam hub will present us with a potent combination of better market opportunities, lower costs and dedicated facilities that should allow us to provide higher service levels to our customers."

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For Polar this is a return to Amsterdam.

This was the carrier's main European hub until 2002, shortly after Polar was purchased by Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings. A reorganization of operations at that time saw Polar move its hub to Liege in

Belgium, to support the existing business of its sister company Atlas Air.

"In fact," Falk explained, "Liege proved to be a very good airport for all-cargo operations, being well-suited to handling night-time flights and having easy access to Europe's motorway system for trucking feed."

"The main problem for Liege was Polar's rapid growth. This led to problems on two fronts. Firstly, the airport infrastructure became increasingly stretched in handling the large volumes of freight Polar was carrying. Secondly, as Liege has no significant local air cargo market, all freight had to be trucked to and from other European markets, pushing up costs."

"Once the decision was made to look at other potential hubs," continued Falk, "Amsterdam very quickly became the number one choice. We were already familiar with Schiphol, due to the fact that we already had three flights a week oper-



ating into the airport, in addition to our previous experience. Amsterdam also has a very significant local market allowing us to save on trucking costs. Finally, the airport has worked with us to offer very attractive slot times allowing us to improve our European schedules."

"The bottom line was that Amsterdam was keen to have us back, and we were pleased to go!"



Hendrik Falk, Polar's Vice President of Sales for Europe, Middle-East and Africa

