



## Introduction

by **Nathan De Valck**

In this September newsletter, we are proud to welcome a new full member Astral Aviation and an Associate Partner – Bombelli Airport Equipment. Read more about them in our Members update section below.

Over the past month, our joint initiative with TIACA Project Sunrays has been progressing well. We have recently concluded the survey on the readiness and preparedness of our air cargo industry in the global transportation of Covid-19 vaccines. The Project Sunrays team will be updating on the current outcomes and feedback received from pharmaceutical companies, as well as providing the first results of the survey in one of our two informative webinars on September 30 or October 1 respectively.

In this newsletter, you will also find the agenda of Pharma.Aero's General Assembly and the Project Update Webinar on October 20, 2020. We also had a First Person interview with Mr. Mohamed Rafi MAR, Vice President Cargo Sales and Marketing, Singapore Airlines Ltd.

Stay safe, enjoy this newsletter and stay connected!

**Nathan De Valck**

Chairman of Pharma.Aero

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## Members Update

Pharma.Aero has recently onboarded Full Member Astral Aviation and Associate Partner Bombelli Airport Equipment.

**Astral Aviation** is a licensed cargo airline, based in the Republic of Kenya, that provides reliable and cost-effective airfreight solutions using a combination of schedule and charter flights within its intra-African and European network. Astral Aviation has transported thousands of tons of vaccines and pharma-products on its fleet and has played an important role in various immunization programs including Ebola (D R Congo) and Cholera (Yemen).



**Bombelli Airport Equipment** has evolved from being a pioneer in the construction industry structural steelwork sector to become a point of reference in the manufacturing of airport ground support equipment (GSE) and cargo handling equipment including Cool Chain solutions including Temperature Controlled Dollies (Cool Dollies) and static/semi-mobile refrigerated storage solutions.



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## Projects Update

### **Project “Sunrays”:** Joint project between Pharma.Aero and TIACA on Guidelines for Optimal COVID-19 Vaccine Transportation

Earlier this month, Pharma.Aero and TIACA have implemented a joint Survey to the air cargo industry with the aim to understand the industry’s readiness and preparedness for the global manufacturing and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, as well as the industry’s capabilities to handle, store and transport the vaccines effectively.

The Project Sunrays team will be updating the current outcomes and feedback received from pharmaceutical companies, as well as providing the first results of the survey in the upcoming webinars. Register for either of the webinars by clicking on one of these links:

**September 30**

[> Webinar 1](#)

**October 1**

[> Webinar 2](#)

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# General Assembly Pharma.Aero and Project Update Webinar

On October 20, 2020, Pharma.Aero will hold its General Assembly, which all Strategic and Full Members are invited to. Both General Assembly and Project Update will be held as webinars. The invitations have already been sent out via e-mail. To RSVP, please accept/decline the invitation. If you have not received your invitation yet, please contact: [administration@pharma.aero](mailto:administration@pharma.aero).

## PROGRAM (times indicated are CET)

<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>	Pharma.Aero General Assembly (for Strategic and Full Members only)
<b>2.00pm – 2.15pm</b>	Break
<b>2.15pm – 3.00pm</b>	Project Update Webinar (for all members)
<b>3.00pm – 3.30pm</b>	Open Door Webinar (Moderated Q&A session)

## Member in the spotlight

### Your Company and position:

I have been with Singapore Airlines for over 25 years in various roles. Singapore Airlines offers cargo capacity to over 130 destinations across six regions on its fleet of Boeing 747-400 freighters as well as passenger flights operated by carriers within the SIA Group, which includes Scoot and SilkAir.

### Your relation to airfreight pharma:

Singapore Airlines offers THRU COOL, a cold chain airfreight service, to transport high value, time-sensitive and temperature-controlled pharmaceutical cargo with speed, reliability and efficiency. As the first airline in Asia Pacific to be awarded the IATA CEIV Pharma certification, Singapore Airlines is committed to providing the highest standard of handling and ensuring the product integrity of life-saving pharmaceutical cargo during transport.

### Any interesting developments within your company in relation to airfreight pharma you want to share?

In September 2018, Singapore Airlines successfully launched its first THRU COOL pharmaceutical 'quality corridor' on the Zurich-Singapore-Sydney route. This provided added assurance to customers transporting temperature-sensitive



**Mr. Mohamed Rafi  
MAR**

*Vice President Cargo  
Sales and Marketing  
Singapore Airlines Ltd*

pharmaceutical shipments to and from these cities via Singapore. Following the success and acceptance by customers, we have progressively added five new cities: Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Ho Chi Minh City, Osaka and Stockholm. More key pharmaceutical lanes will be progressively incorporated into the 'quality corridor' network as part of our expansion plan.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Singapore Airlines has played a role in moving critical pharmaceutical shipments safely and reliably to areas of need. We also stand ready to play our part in ensuring safe carriage of Covid-19 vaccines (once available), given that it will be a mammoth undertaking for all partners in the logistics supply chain.

### Pharma.Aero membership

#### **What is the added value that Pharma.Aero can bring to the pharma handling in our air cargo industry?**

Pharma.Aero facilitates cross functional collaboration between key stakeholders within the pharma supply chain. This encourages exchange of information and ideas that allows each stakeholder to learn and improve its offerings or capabilities with respect to pharma handling. In addition, with Pharma.Aero leading and driving projects that benefit the pharma air cargo community, the community can move forward together in a way that meets the requirements of the pharma shippers. This ensures that air freight remains the choice of transport within the pharma shippers, when it comes to distributing their products.