

Press Release | deugro

deugro Delivers Nine Urgent Air Charters between Thailand and the USA

Houston, Texas, USA, September 12, 2023 – To support an urgent facility start-up, deugro USA, deugro Air Chartering and deugro Thailand successfully delivered 37 pipe spools from Thailand to the USA.

Nine charter flights were performed to transport the urgent components with a total volume of 213 metric tons (1,628 cubic meters). deugro's scope of work encompassed the multi-modal door-to-door transportation by various aircraft types and truck-trailer configurations from a production facility in eastern Thailand to the facility in the USA.

Due to the critical schedule, deugro designed a complex air charter solution ensuring the shortest transit time. It allowed for choosing the airports of origin and destination as close as possible to the supplier and the plant site, while the flight schedules could be flexibly coordinated with the manufacturing plans. To meet all project requirements, deugro deployed an international team of air charter, project and transport engineering experts.

Normally, such cargo would be shipped by ocean freight, or via expedited direct charter ocean freight in urgent cases. Expedited ocean freight was considered, but ultimately only the mode of transportation via air freight could meet the date needed for the cargo to be on site. The urgency of this project was measured in hours and days, tipping the scale to prioritize the fastest possible delivery, and to do so against a backdrop of several challenges.

"With scarce capacities on the heavy lift air charter market caused by the war in the Ukraine, the biggest challenge was locating and securing aircraft that could not only be available at the right place at the right time, but which also allowed for loading the oversized equipment with extremely odd dimensions and complex shapes, with lengths of up to 36.6 meters, widths of up to 5.5 meters and heights of up to 4.4 meters. At the same time, the cargo's requirements had to match the varying available aircraft types, loading equipment and airport capacities. For this purpose, deugro provided tailored packaging solutions, designed various safe and efficient loading concepts and sourced additional loading equipment," **said Pavel Kuznetsov, Head of Air Chartering, deugro.**

Besides the critical transportation of the cargo by aircraft, a variety of further preparations was essential to ensure the timely and smooth deliveries of the replacement components from the factory in Rayong Province to U-Tapao Airport, and then from George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, USA to the facility after arrival. This applied in particular to the extra-long spools with lengths of more than 36 meters, which together with the truck–trailer configurations used, resulted in total lengths of up to over 45 meters. To safely move and load these oversized components, appropriate loading and transport equipment had to be sourced and mobilized. This included 80-metric-ton mobile cranes, main-deck loaders and various truck–trailer configurations.

“To transport all components to U-Tapao airport according to schedule, and to ensure on-time loading of each aircraft and avoid delays, precise planning and preparation were essential. These included detailed road surveys and obstacle removals, timely organization of all required permits, including gate passes and appropriate approvals for smooth entry of cargo, cranes and trailers into the airport, as well as the organization of police escorts. Through our close communication with the equipment manufacturer, in many meetings the cargo pickup was coordinated simultaneously, so that all operations could be successfully executed according to the strict schedule,” said **Kumphol Chatthong, Deputy General Manager, deugro Thailand.**

“Thanks to the many years of experience of our teams, our long-standing strategic relationships with the airlines, as well as the excellent cooperation with the client, dteq Transport Engineering Solutions, the airlines and all partners involved, all urgently needed components were delivered safely, as quickly as possible and on budget, reducing costly downtime to a minimum,” said **Gert Jensen, Senior Vice President Operations, deugro USA.**

“Without question, the air freight campaign was a success. deugro has a strategic advantage in having a dedicated air charter team, which has true expertise of the market. deugro, too, had local knowledge and expertise pertaining to airport selection and the sourcing of equipment and labor required on the ground to support the loadings. deugro was transparent throughout the entire planning and operational phase—working with us as a partner instead of merely a subcontractor. Costs throughout the project were monitored and mitigated whenever possible. Success for this project can be measured by the fact that the cargo arrived on or before the site requirements and did so without any damage or safety incidents,” remarked the client.

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Note to the editor

Please refer to deugro and the deugro group in lower case as per a rebranding of the company in 2018. For more information, please visit: <https://deugro-group.com/companies/>

Link to case study: https://deugro.com/wp-content/uploads/deu_case_study_air_charter_solution_for_an_urgent_facility_start_up_a4_44_web.pdf

Please use the images related to this press release with the following captions:



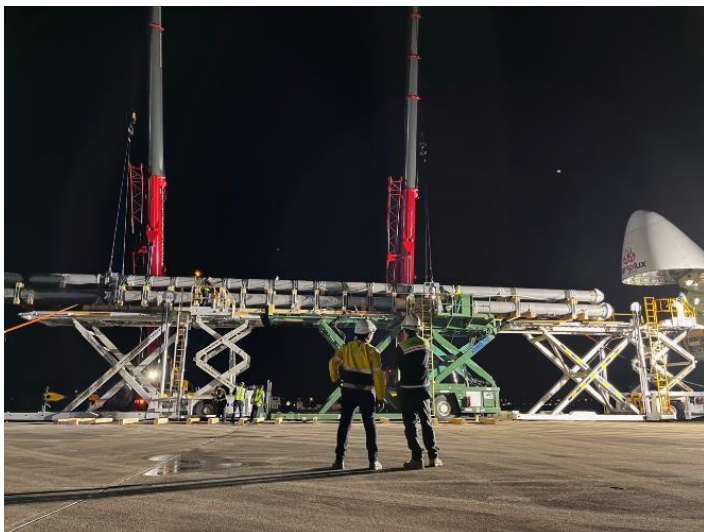
CAPTION: Cargo loading through the rear cargo door, with one end of the spool lifted by the onboard crane and the other end slowly fed into the aircraft, at U-Tapao Airport, Thailand



CAPTION: To utilize the full capacity of the aircraft, deugro arranged for the packing to be in stackable metal frame bundles.



CAPTION: Loading operation of spools of up to 36.6 m in length—one of the longest pieces of cargo ever moved on a B-747 freighter



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CAPTION: Spools with odd shapes and dimensions were fixed at a specific angle in metal frames to allow for loading into the AN-124-100.



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CAPTION: Spools successfully loaded, secured and lashed in the AN-124-100 at U-Tapao Airport, Thailand



CAPTION: Cargo pickup at the original manufacturer in Rayong Province, Thailand



CAPTION: Loading operations at U-Tapao Airport, Thailand, supervised by the local deugro Thailand teams



CAPTION: Unloading operations directly onto trailers at Houston Airport, USA



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CAPTION: Unloading operations directly onto trailers at Houston Airport, USA, supervised by the local deugro teams



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About deugro

deugro is a highly specialized freight forwarder with a strong focus on turnkey logistics solutions for industrial projects. We have a proven track record in successfully executing projects of any magnitude, even under the most challenging conditions and requirements.

deugro focuses wholly on identifying and solving clients' specific needs with unique tailor-made solutions that fulfill all requirements. To deliver the best in both cost and performance, deugro serves as an extension of its clients in their respective supply chains. It provides ocean and inland waterway freight services, road and rail transportation as well as airfreight to almost any destination.

Thanks to a vast network of more than 70 company-owned offices in over 40 countries, deugro leverages comprehensive and in-depth expertise around the world to deliver on its promise. Clients benefit from global coverage and local expertise at every major industrial hub.

deugro was founded in 1924 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany and is a family-owned enterprise in its third generation, with nearly a century of experience in the logistics industry. Today, deugro is an independent company of the deugro group, which is comprised of several companies focusing on project freight forwarding, ocean transportation of heavy lift and project cargo, transport and marine engineering as well as specialized transportation assets.

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