

POSTAL NEWS

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1. France Express launches urgent delivery service via TGVs

Friday, February 25th, 2011

France Express is launching Top One – a new service combining urgent delivery with the speed of the TGV train.

Along with efficient transportation, the new service will also aid the company's objective to reduce CO2 emissions.

With deliveries to and from France, London and Brussels, Top One transports parcels up to 30 kg, placed in the holds of high-speed TGV trains by a dedicated organisation. Senders can drop off their parcels at train stations 30 minutes before the train leaves, while consignees can pick them up 30 minutes after the TGV arrives.

A France Express courier can also collect and deliver Top One parcels from and to customer's homes.

The extensive coverage of 150 TGV stations in France, some of them are located in city centres, together with the dense network of France Express, with 112 depots, reduce the cost of "final kilometre" deliveries, making Top One express deliveries more competitive than road-transport shipment services, the company said.

The main environmental levers used by France Express are reducing fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, particularly CO2, as well as controlling pollution and taking vehicles off the road network.

With the new service, the company is responding directly to the environmental objectives of the transport sector, it said.

France Express - a part of Geodis - delivers 13.8m shipments per year and its clients include leaders in the healthcare, cosmetic, telephony, automotive and textile industries.

Source: France Express/Post&Parcel

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2. UPS Expands Throughout Asia Its Expedited Ocean Freight Service

Atlanta, February 22, 2011

Faster LCL Service from Ports in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand & Vietnam

On the heels of a successful rollout in Japan, UPS today announced the expansion of its UPS Preferred LCL (less-than-container-load) Ocean Freight service to 10 additional Asian ports. The service provides up to 40 percent faster port-to-door delivery to the United States for LCL shipments while still delivering the economic advantages of ocean freight.

UPS has just begun offering the Preferred LCL service to customers shipping to the United States from the Chinese ports of Shanghai, Shenzhen, Ningbo and Xiamen. The service will expand to origins in Busan, South Korea, and Taipei in March of this year and to Bangkok, Thailand; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Singapore, and Hong Kong in April.

"Amid a recovering economy, importers are seeking faster ways to get products to market while at the same time balancing transportation costs," said Jimmy Crabbe, vice president of ocean freight services at UPS. "With our Preferred LCL ocean service, we are giving customers more flexibility by offering another cost and speed option when considering air freight or ocean freight transportation."

The new UPS Preferred LCL Ocean Freight service can potentially cut a typical 3-to-4 week ocean transit time nearly in half. After arriving at a West coast port, Preferred LCL ocean shipments are moved through an expedited UPS North American ground network utilized for air freight shipments. This network ensures faster transit and day-definite delivery to more U.S. destination points than competing services and cuts 8-to-16 days of transit time off the current standard service for East coast deliveries.

In addition to speed, the Preferred LCL Ocean Freight service gives businesses full shipment visibility via UPS's technology solutions such as Quantum View Manage. UPS uses advanced handheld scanners and information management systems to capture and transmit delivery information not typically available for ocean shipments. UPS's Preferred LCL service is ideal for customers in the high-tech/electronics, healthcare, retail and automotive industries, which also benefit from additional features including simplified per-kilo pricing, streamlined invoicing and day-definite delivery commitments.

In addition to Full Container Load service, the company offers a standard LCL service that provides reliable fixed-day port departures and arrivals supported with tracking technology. With scheduled service on 1,600 direct lanes between 116 countries, UPS's LCL services are accessible to trading partners responsible for 97 percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product.

As a global freight forwarder and one of the world's Top 10 Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers (NVOCCs), UPS provides a complete portfolio of ocean freight services ranging from transportation to a Supplier Management service that handles overseas vendors and orders. To learn more about UPS's ocean freight offerings, visit ups.com/globalfreight.

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3. Postal Service Price Adjustments Set for April 17

Stamp Price Remains 44 Cents; Impact to Retail Customers Minimal

WASHINGTON — The Postal Regulatory Commission has notified the U.S. Postal Service that price changes announced Jan. 13 satisfy the requirements of the law and will take effect April 17.

The first U.S. Postal Service mailing services price change in two years will have minimal impact on retail customers who will continue to pay only 44 cents for a stamp.

Price changes of note for retail customers include the following:

- First-Class Mail letters (1 oz.) remain unchanged at 44 cents,
- First-Class Mail additional ounces increase to 20 cents,
- Postcards will cost 29 cents,
- Letters to Canada or Mexico (1 oz.) increase to 80 cents, and
- Letters to other international destinations will remain unchanged at 98 cents.

"Postal Service products and services offer a great value to the American public," said Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe. "For a very affordable price, you can send letters, bill payments, packages, and other mail across town or across the nation."

The 1.7 percent average increase is at or below the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index — although actual percentage price increases for various products and services vary.

Prices will also change for other mailing services, including Standard Mail, Periodicals, Package Services and Extra Services. Larger volume business mailers will see price increases in a variety of categories. Detailed pricing information is available online at www.usps.com/prices.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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4. FedEx Delivers For FIRST Robotics

More Than 1,000 Student Robots Moved via FedEx on Annual FIRST National Robot Ship Day

February 22, 2011

Today, during the annual FIRST National Robot Ship Day, FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) through its operating companies will provide transportation for more than 1,000 robots from student teams around the U.S. who are competing in the 2011 FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) events. Built on innovation, FedEx supports this international competition with a shipment donation, spread over all U.S. teams, in an effort to inspire the next generation's interest and participation in science and technology.

Let the competition begin! -- CHICAGO, February 22, 2011 -- "The Chicago Knights (FIRST Team 1739)" and "The YCLA Eagles (FIRST Team 3416)" -- both of Chicago -- released their robots for competition from the Illinois Institute of Technology like thousands of counterparts across the U.S. today. FedEx Corp.

operating companies are donating transportation for 227 tons of U.S. robots and crates, at an average of 400 pounds per crate.

The FIRST Robotics Competition is an annual competition that helps students to discover the excitement of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and the rewards a career in STEM can bring. More than 50,000 high-school students from the U.S., Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Turkey, and the U.K. will participate in this year's competition.

In total, FedEx will move 227 tons of U.S. robots and crates, at an average of 400 pounds per team, through its networks. The FIRST team shipments will benefit from a series of FedEx innovation firsts, including computers in delivery vehicles; tracking capabilities and software, package-status tracking, and use of wireless technology for shipping.

The student teams have only six weeks to build the robot to meet specifications, working under strict guidelines to create their entries for the 20th Season game. FedEx began the six week stretch on January 8, 2011, delivering materials needed for robot design.

Today, on FIRST National Robot Ship Day, all teams must part with their robotic creations via FedEx shipment until the Regional Competitions take place in March and April. This season, a projected 2,075 teams " including 417 rookie teams " will participate in the competition events which include 48 FIRST Regional Competitions in the U.S., Canada, and Israel, plus nine District Competitions and one State Championship in Michigan, leading up to the 2011 FIRST Championship to be held at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, April 27-30.

"Innovation is an integral part of the FedEx culture and business strategy," explained Stephanie Butler, Manager of Corporate Contributions at FedEx. "We are very active with Junior Achievement and Teach for America, as well as FIRST, and firmly believe that to lead in technology, to innovate and produce jobs, we need to support education and foster passion for science and technology. We are proud to help make the FIRST Robotics Competition shipments possible for the seventh year running by donating the cost of transporting thousands of these 400-pound crates around the country."

In the 2011 competition, two alliances of three teams will compete on a 27-by-54-foot field with poles, attempting to earn points by hanging as many triangle, circle and square FIRST logo pieces as possible with their robots. Called "LOGO MOTION", bonus points will be earned for each robot that can hang and assemble logo pieces to form the FIRST logo. Robots can also deploy Mini-Bots to climb vertical poles for a chance to earn additional points.

"FIRST brings the excitement of a sporting event to science and technology via all of our robotics competitions," said Bill Miller, Director of the FIRST Robotics Competition. "We create the excitement, the challenge and the fun in STEM while recognizing our technology, science, and engineering students as leaders in the making."

More than 50,000 high-school students will compete in the 2011 FIRST Robotics Competition this season.

5. Austrian Post To Introduce New Pricing In May

25 February 2011 - Franz Groter

Austrian Post is to make changes to its tariff structure on the 1st May following a survey completed by 300,000 customers.

The survey showed that 94 percent of customers were satisfied with the letters service and 87 percent very satisfied with parcel deliveries. 91 percent of those asked said they had confidence in the mail handled by Austrian Post.

95 percent of respondents said their mailboxes mainly contained letters, invoices, and addressed advertising. More than half of Austrians regularly receive a package. The most acceptable form of advertising came in the form of a leaflet, closely followed by personally addressed advertising.

The survey was also revealed that customers had a high regard for more customized products and services, in particular those that were easy to understand.

The aim of the survey was to create a new product portfolio more strongly aligned to the changing market and customer requirements, and to simplify and standardise those products.

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