

POSTAL NEWS

No. 52/2011

**Formulated by UNI-Japan Post in cooperation with UNI-Apro,
ASPEK Indonesia and SPPI**

Japan Post - Updated Information On Deliveries. April 10, 2011. Singapore Post implements new tracking solution. April 11, 2011. DHL starts work on three new hubs in Sydney. April 8, 2011. TNT Post changes its brand name to PostNL. April 7, 2011.

1. Japan Post - Updated Information On Deliveries

10 April 2011 - Franz Groter

The Japanese postal service has provided updated information for those wishing to send mail to areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami.

Japan Post said that where it was impractical to deliver to regions devastated by recent events, it would make additional efforts to ensure mail reached the intended recipient, where necessary, via evacuation centres and other shelters. Japan Post said it was unable to deliver directly to addresses along the Pacific Ocean coast or to the neighbouring inland areas of Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki and Chiba Prefectures but would try to ensure mail reached those currently living in temporary accommodation outside these areas.

It advised mail senders to appreciate that where the recipient could not be located in spite of all its efforts, the item would have to be returned to the sender.

Hungarian Post, among a number of European operators, said it was currently scanning mail arriving from Japan to check for radiation levels. Items with high levels of radiation are likely to be set aside and could be delayed or not delivered at all depending on which operator is handling the item and the level of radiation detected.

Japan Post said Airline arrival and departures as well as shipping schedules have had to be changed due to the impact of the earthquake that occurred in the Pacific Ocean off the Tohoku coast on March 11. For this reason, delivery of some international postal items would take longer than usual.

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2. Singapore Post implements new tracking solution

Monday, April 11th, 2011

Postea has teamed up with Skillweb to develop a “next-generation” item tracking solution for Singapore Post.

Under the agreement, the PostMarque system will utilise Skillweb’s solution Houndit hosted within a cloud computing environment to replace business critical item

tracking systems within Singapore Post before being offered to other postal operations.

Skillweb and Postea have completed the first phase deployment of PostMarque into Singapore Post, replacing the first of three existing track and trace systems previously used by the postal organisation to track registered articles and international parcel shipments.

The remaining phases of the rollout will see PostMarque completely replace all legacy systems.

The system is designed to increase productivity, support customs compliance and improve efficiency through greater visibility and control of the post and parcel operation, whilst enhancing customer engagement with the aim of boosting service levels.

The PostMarque solution is hosted in a cloud computing environment and utilises advanced CN50 handheld mobile devices from Intermec. It will provide a range of added functionality to support the delivery, collection and returns process including automated SMS text and email, GPS tracking, image capture and job allocation.

In addition, PostMarque will enable post offices to offer web-based customers self-service transactions, physical digital transfers and also implement transactional fees where applicable.

“PostMarque supports our vision to be the premier provider of mail, logistics, e-commerce and retail solutions in the region,” said Ng Hin Lee, Singapore Post’s CEO for Postal and Corporate Services. “This innovative system will enable us to gain efficiencies throughout the distribution process, offer a wider range of products and services, and enhance the customer’s overall experience with Singapore Post.”

Michael J. Murphy CEO at Postea said: “We selected Skillweb as a platform for the PostMarque solution because of their proven track record in delivering leading edge tracking solutions within the post and parcel sector and the breadth of functionality found within the Houndit product. As a leading innovator in postal technology we are committed to building our solutions using best-of-breed systems with industry-leading partners to enable mail and parcel operators to better compete in the deregulated postal market.”

Paul Ridden, managing director of Skillweb added: “Our partnership with Postea will enable us to take the extensive range features found within the Houndit product into a global market place. Furthermore, it allows us to extend our development of innovative and valuable business tools focused on post and parcel operations, which will help customers such as Singapore Post to achieve increased profitability, productivity, efficiency and customer service. The introduction of PostMarque will further enhance Singapore Post’s reputation as a leading world-class postal operator in the region.”

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3. DHL starts work on three new hubs in Sydney

Friday, April 8th, 2011

DHL Supply Chain Australia has committed to the development of three new distribution centres in Sydney – costing AUS \$80m (EUR 58.4m).

The move follows “new business wins, contract renewals and significant growth in the transport business,” the company said.

The distribution centres will provide more than 55,000 square metres of new facilities and form part of a new DHL Sydney Campus, a DHL-dedicated logistics area which will comprise the three new distribution centres and a Transport Hub, among others. The development of the three centres will see 120 new jobs created.

The three distribution centres will be operational by the middle of 2011, DHL confirmed.

“We’ve experienced significant growth in our transport business. That coupled with DHL winning new business and renewing the Johnson & Johnson Pacific contract for a further five years has prompted us to start developing the new facilities to adequately prepare for the further additional growth we expect in 2011,” said Terry Ryan, senior vice president, DHL Supply Chain South Pacific.

DHL Supply Chain’s Transport Hub will occupy circa 10,000 square metres of the DHL Sydney Campus. DHL’s transport business began in 2004 and since that time has grown significantly with 18% as a yearly average being achieved.

The Transport Hub will manage the consolidation of outbound freight from Sydney and inbound shipments for onward distribution within Sydney.

“The DHL Sydney Campus will ultimately become the hub for our operations in Australia. We have the capacity to develop an additional 120,000 square metres of space. We believe it offers an attractive offering to prospective and existing customers to be part of such a modern development,” said Ryan.

Construction planning and earthworks on the three distribution centres are underway and on plan to open later this year.

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4. TNT Post changes its brand name to PostNL

7 April 2011 at 15:00 CET - The Hague - After receiving official approval from the General Meeting of Shareholders on 25 May, TNT Post will continue as an independent mail company from 31 May 2011 under the new name PostNL. The company is pleased and proud to be able to continue carrying the ‘Royal’ (Koninklijk in Dutch) designation.

The focus of PostNL is on the mail, parcel and e-commerce market in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, the UK and Italy. Harry Koorstra, CEO of PostNL states, “The choice of mail, parcels and e-commerce is a logical one given our activities. Consumers are increasingly ordering goods online, with the result that we are witnessing a drastic increase in our parcel delivery business, national and international. Mail, in the form of direct marketing and door-to-door advertising, is a key link in the e-commerce chain. We are also increasingly directing our efforts towards supporting e-commerce, by offering ready to use webshops, for example, and by taking on the entire logistics chain for online retailers. We are helped along by our reputation as a reliable company, and by the fact that we have the largest network of outlets in the Netherlands. We see our company as an essential link between the physical and the online world. We have plenty of opportunity to develop this further and to grow along with it.

“Our new name PostNL symbolises the reliability and down to earth approach of our company. This name does justice to our past, something we are very proud of. By the same token we emphasise that we are a true Dutch company, with ambitions that go beyond mail and operations that reach beyond our borders. Our three-sided logo symbolises the heart of our company, with mail, parcels and e-commerce at the core.” The colour of PostNL’s new corporate identity will remain orange. The new corporate identity will be used in all Royal PostNL’s communications from 31 May. The company fleet, staff wear, postal outlets and other company resources will be rebranded in stages, gradually becoming a familiar sight over the course of the year. Outside the Netherlands rebranding will be carried out at a later stage.

About PostNL (subject to shareholders' approval)

PostNL processes 8.8 billion addressed postal items (including 100 million parcels) each day and delivers to more than 88 million addresses in the Benelux, Germany, the UK and Italy. PostNL’s main business is mail: collecting, sorting, transporting and delivering letters and parcels. The company also provides services in the area of data and document management, direct marketing and fulfilment. PostNL employs some 77.000 people. In 2010 the company generated a turnover of nearly 4.3 billion euros.

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Posties worry about radioactive mail from Japan

By TOM GODFREY QMI AGENCY

Last Updated: April 10, 2011 6:17pm

TORONTO - Some workers at Canada's mail processing centres are demanding radiation detectors be used to screen the thousands of pieces of mail and courier packages arriving from Japan.

A border officer at Gateway postal facility in Mississauga, Ont., has refused to handle mail from Japan due to concerns about leaked radiation from crippled nuclear plants, a union officials said.

Gateway is one of three postal facilities in Canada that handles international mail.

Jason McMichael, national vice-president of the Customs and Immigration Union, said a federal labour official will likely rule this week if the worker has to return to the job after refusing to sort mail for a week.

"We already have radiation detectors in the postal facilities," McMichael said on Sunday. "We are asking the employer to turn on the detectors and lets be 100% sure." He said thousands of pieces of mail and packages from Japan arrive at the plants daily and are distributed by postal workers with no radiation checks being conducted.

"We want to make sure our members and the public are safe," McMichael said.

"The packages arrive here and are delivered without any scrutiny."

The U.S. have detectors at their postal outlets and at land border crossings.

"The potential for radiation exposure is there," insisted union president Ron Moran.

"This is a concern for all our workers in postal facilities."

Moran said calls for detectors were rejected by management last week after Health Canada ruled there was no radiation threat.

In addition to mail, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is monitoring airline passengers arriving from Japan, Libya and Egypt, officers said.

The customs declaration forms of travellers arriving from those countries are used to determine the number of Canadians in areas deemed dangerous. The declaration cards, or E-311s, can be scanned to detect radiation. They contain information on how to contact the travellers in case of emergencies. CBSA officials said the cards are collected from all travellers entering Canada and forwarded to Statistics Canada.

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Norway eyes historic EU "nei" over postal rules

2011-04-10 14:33:49 GMT (Reuters)

OSLO, April 10 (Reuters) - Norway is set to launch last ditch negotiations with the European Union to amend the bloc's postal services directive and avoid its first ever opt-out of EU rules, the prime minister said on Sunday.

Non-EU member Norway is part of the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Schengen customs zone because it abides by EU economic rules aimed at limiting state subsidies and creating a level playing field for firms from all EU states.

It has never exercised its opt-out clause, which would give the EU the right to suspend part of the EEA agreement and may jeopardise Norway's long-standing economic deal with Brussels.

Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg failed to convince his Labour party at a weekend congress to drop their opposition to the directive, which would end Norway's postal monopoly.

"We will start negotiations, failing that, we are ready to use the opt-out," Stoltenberg told public broadcaster NRK.

According to a Norwegian report about the consequences of opening up the heavily unionised postal market, about half a million Norwegians could get mail just one day a week -- compared to six days a week in the current state-backed system.

The report said the removal of heavy subsidies would make it uneconomical to deliver mail more regularly to every household in the country.

Norway, with Europe's second-longest coastline, has a population of under 5 million people and hundreds of remote communities.

Pundits say the country, which rejected EU membership in votes in 1972 and 1994, is ironically a more stringent follower of EU rules than most of the bloc's members, but Oslo has precious little say in setting EU rules.

According to one ministerial report, only Malta has implemented more EU regulations than non-EU Norway.

Stoltenberg is staunchly against renegotiating the EEA agreement and Finance Minister Sigbjørn Johnsen told Reuters last month the agreement "has served us well".

But unless Stoltenberg can win last minute concessions from Brussels, the postal veto could change the long-standing status quo.

(Editing by Sophie Hares)

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