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Cargoitalia celebrates inaugural flight to Hong Kong with partner Hactl

Cargoitalia – Italy's new all-cargo carrier – celebrated the launch of its first scheduled freighter service between Milan and Hong Kong on 10th September 2009, in collaboration with its newly-appointed handling agent Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited (Hactl).

To commemorate the launch of the new service, Cargoitalia and Hactl jointly hosted an inaugural ceremony in the evening of 10th September at SuperTerminal 1, the headquarters of Hactl at the Hong Kong International Airport. Over 100 guests including dignitaries and members of the Hong Kong air cargo community attended the gala event.

Cargoitalia's first scheduled service follows the airline's trial charter flight to Hong Kong in late July. Cargoitalia will now operate twice-weekly scheduled MD-11SF freighter services between Milan and Hong Kong, on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Hactl is providing Cargoitalia with physical cargo handling, air cargo documentation, ramp handling and crew transportation services at the Hong Kong International Airport. Says Lilian Chan, General Manager, Marketing and Customer Service of Hactl: "We are very proud to have been appointed by Cargoitalia, we extend our warmest welcome, and we congratulate the carrier on its successful launch.

"Cargoitalia's appointment of Hactl as its cargo partner signifies the strong ties and mutual trust between both companies. We will strive to add value to the airline throughout the supply chain, raising its overall competitiveness and contributing to its success."

Roberto Gilardoni, Commercial Director of Cargoitalia, says: "This is a tremendously encouraging start to our scheduled operations, and we sincerely thank the airfreight communities in both Hong Kong and Italy for their support and trust.

"We are delighted to have Hactl as our physical handling partner in Hong Kong. Its well-deserved reputation for efficiency, security and customer service will make a major contribution to the future success of our business in the region."

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About Cargoitalia S.p.A. (Cargoitalia)

The new Cargoitalia is the result of amalgamating the original Cargoitalia (which suspended operations in 2008) with some of the assets of the Alitalia full cargo business in April 2009. In May 2009, the airline took delivery of its first MD11 freighter. In July, it received its AOC, and in August it took delivery of a second MD11F, and commenced ad hoc charter operations.

Cargoitalia's new owners are ALIS (Aerolinee Italiane S.p.A. – 66.7%) and Intesa SanPaolo (33.3%). ALIS in turn is owned by the family of Chairman and CEO Alcide Leali (62%), other private investors (8%), and Ricerca S.p.A. (Benetton), Selin S.p.A. (van den Heuvel) and Banca Intermobiliare, each having 10% stakes.

About Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited (Hactl)

Hactl is the leading air cargo terminal operator in Hong Kong. Its air cargo terminal, SuperTerminal 1, was opened in 1998 at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) at Chek Lap Kok. The US\$1 billion facility is the largest single air cargo terminal in the world with a potential capacity of 3.5 million tonnes per annum. In 2008, Hactl handled 2.53 million tonnes of air cargo, representing about 70% of air cargo throughput at HKIA. The Company provides physical cargo handling, air cargo documentation handling, freighter ramp handling and logistics support services, serving over 90 international airlines and 1,000 freight forwarders.

Hactl's website – www.hactl.com