



Market Report 10/2026



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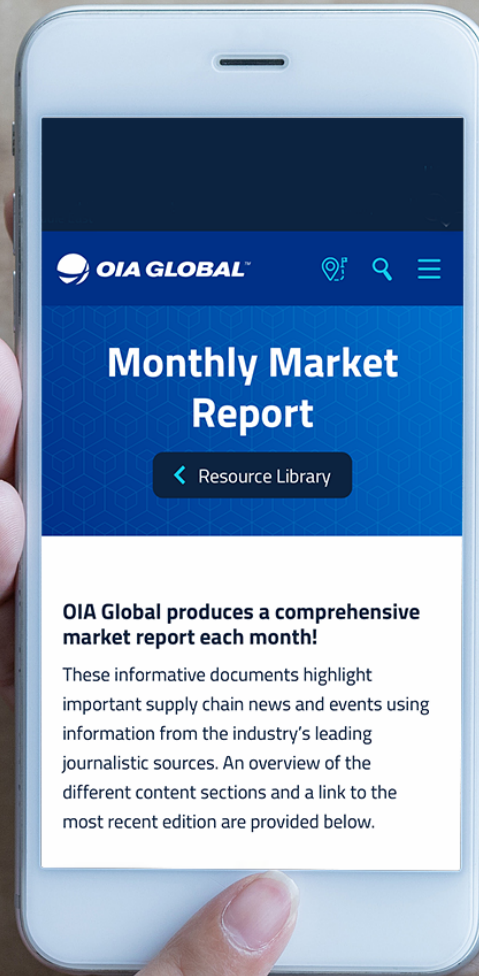


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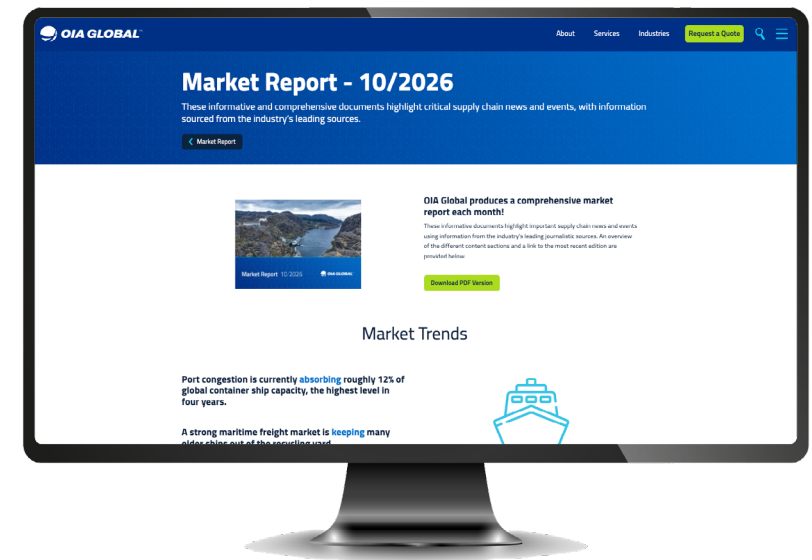
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12%

Port congestion is currently **absorbing** roughly 12% of global container ship capacity, the highest level in four years.



A strong maritime freight market is **keeping** many older ships out of the recycling yard.

Panama Canal Eases Restrictions

The Panama Canal Authority is **easing** some of its recent draft restrictions after rain has eased pressure in Gatun Lake.

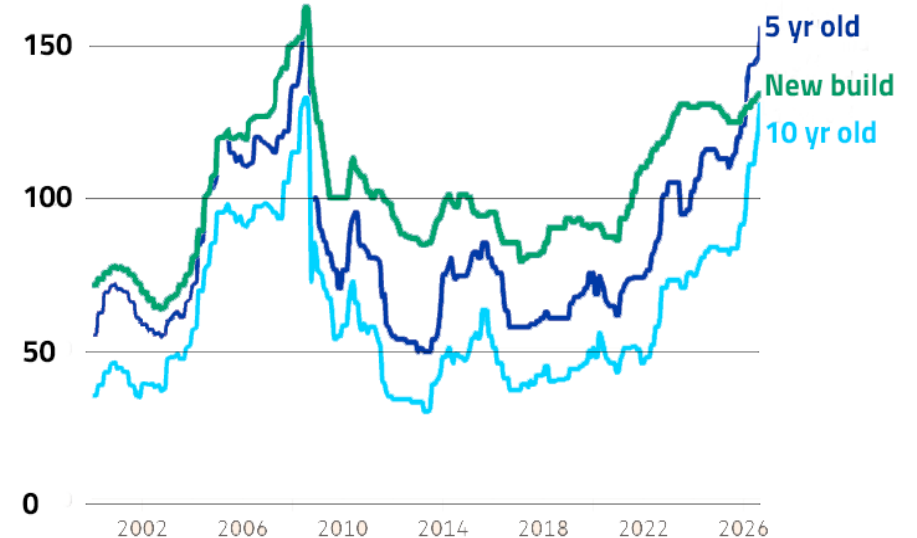
- The maximum draft of the Neopanamax locks has been **increased** by 1' effective immediately (now 49' or 14.94 meters)
- 33 transit slots per day, starting Oct. 15th (10 Neopanamax and 23 Panamax)



The British government has **set ambitious targets** to increase rail freight volumes: +40% by 2040 and +75% by 2050. This could mean more than £15B moving by rail each year, with Great British Railways (GBR) **serving** as the primary driver.

Oil supertanker prices reach historic highs: the value of older supertankers has exceeded new-build vessels for the first time on brokers' records.

Monthly average prices for South Korean-built vessels (\$ in millions)



Source: Braemar, Financial Times.



Stronger rail connectivity between China and the Mekong region is **providing** customers with additional options for selected regional cargo flows. >21M tons of cross-border cargo have now moved via the China–Laos railway since operations began.

Asian Nations Lead in Connectivity

China's liner shipping connectivity index **reached** 1,347 in September 2026, more than double the scores of second-ranked South Korea (633) and Singapore (626). Asia dominates overall, with 9/15 top-ranked economies.

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) index gauges a country's integration into container-shipping networks using factors including vessel calls, port capacity, carrier and service availability, largest ship size, and the number of countries reached through direct services.



India's imports to China are rebounding, but trade remains lopsided in China's favor. Indian exports to China rose 40% from April–August of this year.

China's imports from India YoY

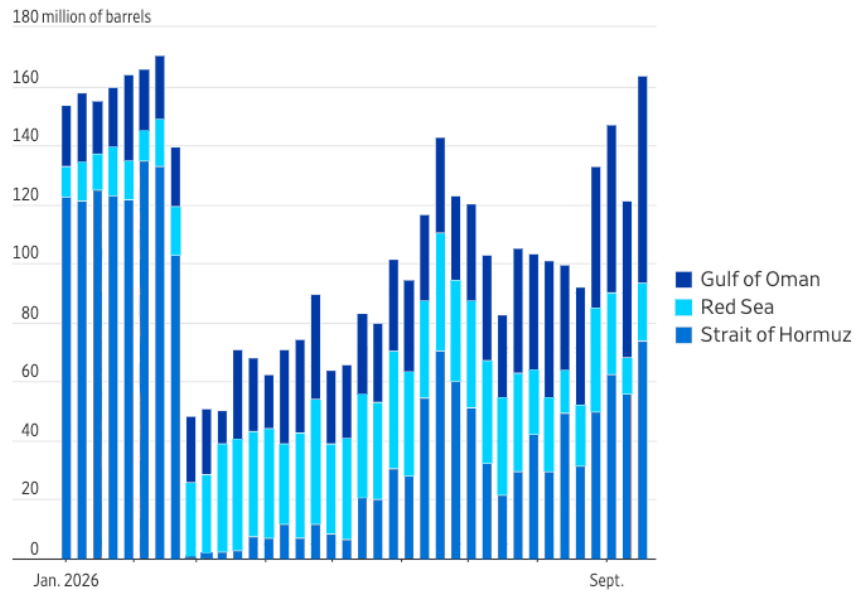


Source: China's Customs General Administration, Bloomberg.

Shippers are sending almost as much crude oil out of the Strait of Hormuz as before the Iran war, but not enough barrels of what the world needs most: diesel.

The head of ARAMCO, Saudi Arabia's state oil producer, [says](#) that global oil stockpiles have become "scarily thin", [putting](#) markets at risk unless the Strait of Hormuz reopens. The world had about 10B barrels of oil stocks when the U.S.-Iran war began, but this has [fallen](#) to <6B, with only 10% practically available.

Middle East Oil Exports (Weekly)





The U.S. merchandise-trade deficit **widened** in August: merchandise imports increased 5.5%, led by a +16.6% surge in the value of inbound shipments, primarily driven by industrial supplies such as petroleum products.



Canada's federal government is **committing** C\$1.2B (USD \$843M) to ocean protection and marine safety as it prepares for increased commercial vessel traffic tied to new energy, LNG, and port projects.

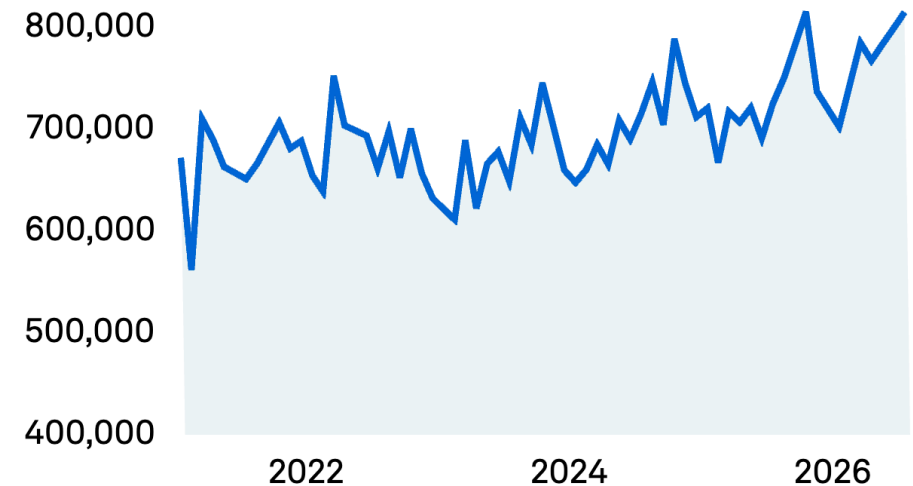
- Transport Canada will replace aging digital systems used for cargo inspections, port state control, domestic vessel oversight and seafarer certification. The new system will integrate marine data and improve risk analysis, enforcement, and regulatory services.
- New infrastructure projects: expansion at the Port of Vancouver and the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 project will bring additional ship traffic to the West Coast.
- DP World's Centerm terminal (Vancouver) has **increased** container capacity by 65% with a 75-metre berth extension, expanded on-terminal rail capacity, and automated truck gates.



Surging Domestic Intermodal Volumes

If regulators approve the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) and Norfolk Southern (NS) Railway merger, the combined railroad could **convert** 1.2M truckloads to domestic intermodal within three years. Nearly 2/3 of those conversions would occur on lanes greater than 2,000 miles in length.

Intermodal Volume, Domestic Containers, Hauled by Railroads



Source: Intermodal Association of North America, Journal of Commerce, S&P Global.

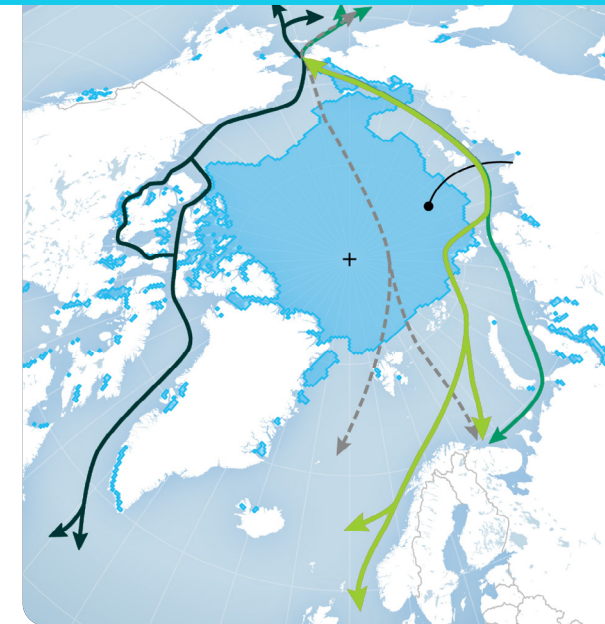
Market Trends: Arctic Shipping



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The Arctic is **becoming** increasingly attractive as melting polar ice allows more ships to avoid traditional maritime chokepoints. Voyages via the Northern Sea Route (NSR) hit 133 last month, more than 4x than in 2022.

- Arctic routes shorten the journey between Europe and Asia by around 7,000km and 10 days.
- Rosatom, a Russia-controlled company, issues permits to sail through 28 distinct sections with different guidelines depending on the ice conditions.



The Chinese are continuing to **expand** their operations along the NSR. Sea Legend recently **launched** a regular cargo service between China and Europe via the Arctic. A 2025 trial crossing saw a container ship **travel** from the port of Ningbo-Zhoushan in eastern China to Felixstowe in the UK in 20 days.



President Lee Jae Myung **views** Arctic shipping as a priority and **hopes** to make it a regular trade route by 2030. Government officials think the NSR could help **strengthen** Busan's position as a global maritime hub.

South Korea's *Panstar Arco* containership **completed** the first leg of trip, which took 21 days from Busan, South Korea, to Felixstowe (UK) and 22 days to Rotterdam (Holland). The demonstration voyage **will give** shippers critical data about the challenges of moving through the Arctic.



Data shows more sanctioned ships—50 oil tankers and 18 LNG carriers—traversed the NSR in the first two months of the 2026 navigation season than during the whole of 2025.

Notably, most of these “shadow fleet” vessels are 15+ years old and have a low ice class, **meaning** that they have limited ability to safely **navigate** ice-covered waters without assistance from icebreakers. This creates high risk in an area with harsh operating conditions and limited emergency response infrastructure.

Russia's shadow fleet now **contains** >1,500 vessels, almost 1/5 of the global tanker fleet. Nearly all these **lack** traditional insurance policies.



Japan and **India** have also expressed interest in NSR shipping opportunities.



Hapag-Lloyd's Purchase of ZIM in Limbo

Israel's finance ministry is **requiring** a new review of Hapag-Lloyd's proposed \$4.2B acquisition of Zim Integrated Shipping Services. Key concerns **include**:

- Direct shipping routes to Asia
- Stronger state protection of Israel's "golden share," which **gives** it special ownership rights in ZIM.



CMA CGM Group successfully **closed** its **acquisition** of FedEx Supply Chain at an enterprise value of \$1.4B. The multi-year commercial agreement should unlock broader collaboration in air and ocean freight and contract logistics services.



After a year-long delay, the cargo divisions of **Qatar Airways, Malaysia Airlines and IAG Group** (parent company of British Airways) are finally **prepared to launch** their joint cargo venture. Customers should benefit from the combined strengths of the three airlines, with cargo moving in a coordinated fashion across multiple carriers, hubs, and regions.

Deutsche Lufthansa AG and Air France-KLM **increased** their offers for a minority stake in TAP Air Portugal to more than €1B (USD \$1.1B). Portugal's government plans to select a buyer sometime in October.



Ocean Network Express (ONE) will **consolidate** its East Asia and South Asia regional headquarters into a new Asia-Pacific headquarters in Singapore and centralize management of its East/West/South Africa markets in Dubai, effective April 1st, 2027.



Kuehne+Nagel **agreed** to a comprehensive, long-term strategic collaboration with Amazon which will allow them to **leverage** Amazon Web Services (AWS) and the company's data center infrastructure.

Pathways

Pathways is OIA Global's focused approach to strengthening key trade corridors and delivering smarter, more reliable solutions where our customers need them most. Each Pathway highlights a strategic route supported by data, expertise, and the ability to create meaningful impact on speed, visibility, and supply chain performance.



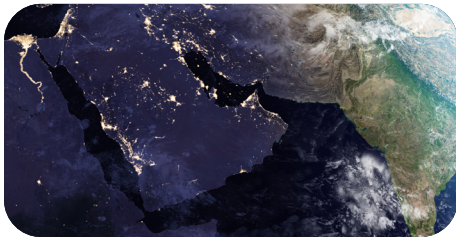
Atlantic

Connecting the **Americas and Europe** through high-value lanes designed for reliability, consistency, and competitive advantage.



Pacific

Strengthening the most competitive **U.S.–Asia** corridors by applying pricing intelligence, carrier performance insights, and a responsive market approach.



Eurasia

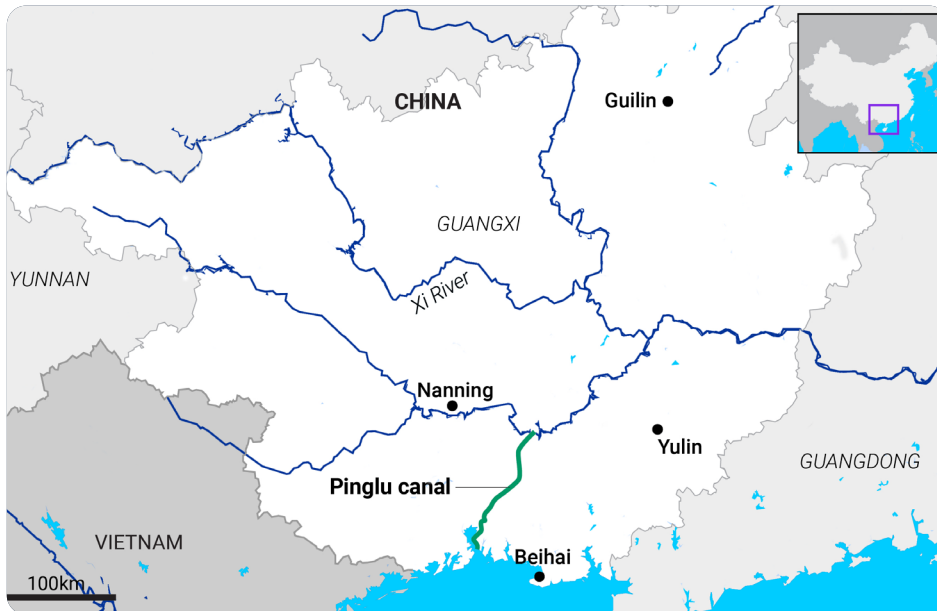
Enabling faster, smarter movement between **Asia and Europe** with flexible multimodal options, capacity management, and deep compliance expertise.



Southern

Unlocking emerging opportunities between **Asia and South America**.

China has **opened** the 134.2km Pinglu Canal, **creating** a new river-to-sea artery from the Xijiang River system in the country's southwest (Guangxi) directly to the Beibu Gulf.



Romania is **modernizing** the 113km Braşov - Sighişoara line, a vital link on the Rhine-Danube and Baltic Sea-Black Sea-Aegean Sea corridors within the EU's Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). The project is expected to be completed in 2029 and is estimated to cost €2.25B.

- The upgraded railway will accommodate 22 freight trains daily—roughly 6M tonnes of freight—and increase the maximum speed to 120km/h.



The Port of Oakland is **widening** its inner and outer harbor turning basins to better accommodate larger ships and **remain** competitive.

- The estuary's widest point is approximately 1,500 feet, but newer containerships are upwards of 1,300 feet, often leaving +/- 150 feet of clearance on each side.



The Delaware Container Terminal (DCT) is being **developed** on a 137-acre site and will be capable of **accommodating** vessels of up to 16,000 TEU, with 1.2M TEU annual capacity.

- Infrastructure will include a 2,700' quay with a 45' depth
- The terminal will have seven electric ship-to-shore (STS) gantry cranes, 24 electric rubber-tyred gantry cranes, and provide access to Class I rail services and major highways (I-495, I-95, and I-295).



The Montgomery Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (Alabama) remains on schedule for an early 2027 opening. The \$100M, 272-acre terminal **serves** as an inland extension of the Port of Mobile's container gateway. It will connect central Alabama manufacturers, distributors, and exporters with Mobile through direct CSX rail service, **creating** a rail alternative to truck drayage between the coast and Montgomery.



The EU has [new customs declaration requirements for steel imports](#), starting October 1st, 2026. Shippers must [provide](#) traceable evidence showing where steel was originally melted and poured.

Building Canada Strong Act

The bill [intends](#) to boost Canada's supply chain capabilities in several ways:

- Designation of "national trade corridors" that will have performance metrics [to prevent](#) bottlenecks and improve efficiency.
- Overhauls the governance system for Canada's ports, allowing them to pursue more private investment.
- Speeds up approvals and [removes](#) some regulatory hurdles for lower-risk infrastructure, such as smaller bridges and rail connections.

"It's really inspired by this imperative to diversify our overseas markets, to diversify away from the United States" - Steven MacKinnon, Canada's Transport Minister

Tariff Updates

All the latest regulations and compliance news can be found on [this webpage](#), including these recent developments.

- IEEPA refunds & the Consolidated Administration & Processing of Entries (CAPE) system
- Canada/U.S. trade war
- Section 301 forced labor duties
- U.S. Customs updates Post Summary Correction (PSC) procedures
- EU's new Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

[More Information](#)

OIA's Recent Acquisitions



Cargo Services, Inc. (CSI), is an established international freight forwarding and customs brokerage firm headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. The company has longstanding customer relationships across key manufacturing and industrial sectors.

"At OIA, service is everything—and what stood out about Cargo Services is that they operate the same way. You can see it in how long their customers have been with them. Connecting that with OIA's global network is going to create real value for customers on both sides."

- Mabel Rodriguez, Managing Director, Americas

[Learn More](#)



About Freight Worldwide, (AFW) is a premier freight forwarding and customs clearance provider headquartered in Auckland, New Zealand. With more than two decades of delivering precision logistics with a personal touch, AFW has earned long-standing customer relationships across the industrial, automotive, consumer, and pharmaceutical sectors.

"This acquisition is an important milestone for our presence in New Zealand and a testament to the strength of our regional strategy. Dave and his team have built a business that mirrors everything we stand for: exceptional service, trusted customer relationships, and an unwavering commitment to getting it right."

-Jeff Barrie, Chief Executive Officer of OIA Global

[Learn More](#)

Biofuels

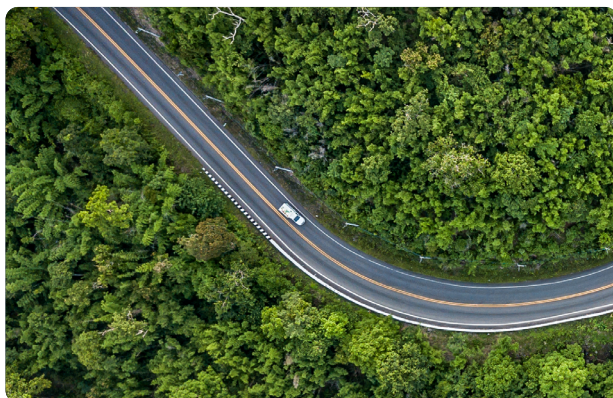
Biofuels made from crops and organic waste are **becoming** cheaper and more widely used. **Alternative-fuel-capable tonnage has already grown from just 0.4% of the global fleet in 2020 to 5.2% in 2026, led primarily by LNG and methanol systems.** Biofuels have an advantage over other alternative fuels (i.e., methanol or ammonia) **because** they are easy to adopt.

- Biofuels have a slightly lower energy density than conventional fuels, meaning that ships must burn about 7-10% more fuel per journey.



India's first port-based e-methanol production facility **will be** a plant at Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in Kandla, Gujarat. The plant is expected to produce green methanol at a much lower cost compared to other global producers, just \$750 per ton, against a global rate of \$1,300 per ton. The targeted completion date is Q2, 2027.

- > Google, Microsoft, and DSV have **joined** the **Zero Emission Maritime Buyers Alliance (ZEMBA)**.
- > A single deal will **nearly double** the U.S. battery-electric Class 8 fleet, as **2,500 Tesla Semi vehicles were purchased** through the Zero-Emission Truck Shipper-Carrier Alliance Leading Electrification (ZET SCALE), a program jointly operated by Catalyst Mobility and the **Smart Freight Centre**.
- > American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering (HD KSOE) and Siemens are developing digital twin technologies that better **analyze leak behavior in ammonia-fueled vessels**.



The electrification of road freight trucking is happening much faster than for passenger vehicles, as rigs are used more intensively and have a quicker turnover. This structural force could undermine long-term oil demand across the world—diesel consumption in China will drop >10% this year.

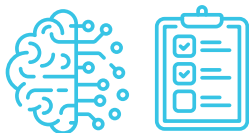
"Our aspiration is to use 100% EV vehicles in our fleet system in the next three to four years as we implement our fleet renewal plan" - Li Wenjun, President of Nippon Express (China)

The pace of adoption around the world largely **depends** upon government support. Beijing has operated an annual scrappage-subsidy program for older diesel trucks since 2024, offering cash incentives to encourage fleet operators to replace aging vehicles with cleaner alternatives.

Wind Propulsion

100+ large merchant ships are now **equipped** with modern wind propulsion systems, representing >5M deadweight tons of carrying capacity. These systems are designed to work alongside conventional engines, using the wind to reduce fuel consumption whenever conditions allow.

- Anemoi Marine Technologies completed the installation of five Rotor Sails onboard the 400,000 dwt Very Large Ore Carrier (VLOC), *Sohar Max*, making it the largest vessel to receive wind propulsion technology to date.



An **August 2026 Gartner survey** found that AI now **accounts** for 2/3 of supply chain digital investments, though 55% of chief supply chain officers say they're still working out the actual return.



OIA Global is a leading provider of end-to-end supply chain solutions, delivering resilient logistics services that adapt to a dynamic world. Our company's mission is to deliver peace of mind. Through proven solutions and exceptional service, OIA goes above and beyond to find the path to success for every customer.

OIA's capabilities extend beyond traditional transportation management to include comprehensive road, ocean, and air services, as well as contract logistics, project logistics, and customs brokerage. We also offer innovative packaging solutions, raw materials management, and 4PL supply chain orchestration.

By integrating automation, innovation, and AI into daily operations, OIA transforms data into actionable intelligence, enabling smarter decision-making and providing customers with better visibility and agility. OIA maintains expertise in several key industries: automotive and mobility, electronics, energy, healthcare, industrial, and retail and lifestyle, but also provides services in many others.

Founded and headquartered in Portland, Oregon, USA, the company now operates in 30+ countries with more than 1,200 employees across 60+ offices.



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Company Capabilities

OIA Global is a leading provider of end-to-end [supply chain solutions](#), delivering resilient [logistics services](#) that adapt to a dynamic world. OIA's capabilities include road, ocean, air freight, [contract logistics](#), [project logistics](#), [customs brokerage](#), [packaging](#), [raw materials management](#), and [4PL](#) orchestration. By integrating automation and innovation, OIA transforms data into actionable intelligence, enabling smarter decisions and greater agility for customers across these [key industries](#): automotive and mobility, electronics, energy, healthcare, industrial, and retail and lifestyle.



1,200+

Employees

60+

Offices

30+

Countries

Case Studies

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