

## The Naples Airport invests in the cargo terminal and a new international TNT flight

Today, in the presence of **Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, Mario Tassone**, local authorities and the press, a **inaugural ceremony** was held for the **new cargo terminal and a new all-cargo, international TNT Global Express flight**, market leader in express delivery services.

**The new 3,200 m<sup>2</sup> cargo terminal**, replaces the old 900 m<sup>2</sup> terminal and is the result of restructuring work done on two military hangars with an overall investment of **€5,200,000** of which €4,000,000 was from public funding and €1,200,000 financed directly by Gesac. The structure employs 23 Gesac Handling employees and an equivalent number of airport Customs officials as well as representatives of other related industries such as forwarding agents, carriers and specialized workers.

During 2002, the volume of cargo traffic was **6,190 tonnes primarily destined to the United States, Japan, Belgium, Great Britain, Spain and Canada** where the greater part of exports include footwear, clothing, jewellery, corals, leather goods, Vietri-type ceramics and aeronautical components developed by the Neapolitan aeronautical industries. An interesting statistic regarding the flourishing mozzarella market is that approximately 3,000 kilos are exported on a daily basis, most of which is destined to the United States and Great Britain. The majority of imports arrive from the **United States, China, Japan, Germany, Great Britain, Spain and France and are mostly comprised of technical and electronic apparatus** components for the mechanical, aeronautical and naval industries.

"The opening of the new cargo terminal has already had a favourable impact on the volume of outbound traffic and this new TNT flight not only confirms a continuing upward trend but represents a step up in the quality of services available for customers and in the volume of traffic" - stated Natale Chieppa, Managing Director of Gesac Handling, the company which provides ground assistance and services (aircraft, passenger, baggage and mail).

The TNT Bae 146 (a four-jet plane also known as the *quiet freighter* owing to its low noise levels) will provide a nightly **connection from Naples** to the **TNT international Hub in Liège**, where TNT's international network is set up to deliver Campania area merchandise to Europe, the 10 leading cities in the U.S. and the rest of the world within one day. This places TNT in an extremely advantageous position, in terms of quality and quantity of demand, over its competitors inasmuch as there is no other express courier providing international air connections along the Tyrrhenian ridge. "With a daily connection to Europe and the rest of the world, Naples is now positioned to become a new important centre within the TNT Global Express network: a company which has re-confirmed its trust in the potential of southern Italy where it is conducting a development plan which entails significant investments" disclosed Giuseppe Smeriglio, Managing Director for Italy of the Dutch group.

Last year TNT inaugurated an **11,000 m<sup>2</sup> Hub** - depot in Teverola (CE) with **400 employees and a fleet of 100 vehicles**, capable of moving more than **9,000 pieces of freight per day**, as well as a **Customer Service** Centre, one of the largest in central-south Italy which employs **100 operators** who handle volumes of approximately 5,000 telephone calls per day.

"It was imperative that airport facilities include infrastructure able to meet the needs of a market such as that of cargo transport in which swift, secure and efficient operations are fundamental factors in enabling companies to be competitive. The new cargo terminal completes the first phase of the airport development plan which entailed an overall investment of **90 million euro**. Now we have begun the second phase of the **Master Plan** which, **up until 2015**, calls for a **144 million euro investment** of which 76 million in 2000-2006 P.O.N. and P.O.R. European Funds which are aimed at making further improvements in safety, service quality, infrastructure efficiency and reducing environmental impact " - stated Mauro Pollio, Managing Director and President of Gesac.