

Qantas Freight adds freighter connections to Shanghai, Bangkok

Flights feed international services to the United States

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The freighter subsidiary of Qantas plans to operate an Airbus A330-200 cargo jet (pictured) between Sydney, Australia, and Shanghai, China. (Photo: Qantas Freight)

The air logistics division of Qantas will operate a non-stop freighter service from Australia to Shanghai, China, with its own metal for the first time, starting on Thursday.

Qantas Freight said it will deploy an Airbus A330-200 converted freighter twice per week between Sydney and Shanghai to meet shipping demand for direct service. Previous service between the cities has utilized two Boeing 747-400 cargo jets under an operating lease with U.S.-based Atlas Air. Non-China loads will be transferred to Atlas Air in Shanghai for onward service to Chicago.

Qantas Freight has 10 aircraft in its fleet - six Airbus A321 (narrowbody) converted freighters, two A330-200s and the two 747s flown by Atlas Air. Five of the planes are used for international service.

The airline in late May also added a second weekly Asia-U.S. service via Bangkok (Sydney-Bangkok-Shanghai-New York JFK via Anchorage with return stops in Los Angeles, Honolulu) and (Sydney-Bangkok-Shanghai-Anchorage-Dallas-JFK-Chicago-Honolulu-Melbourne-Sydney) flown by Atlas Air. Stopping in Bangkok adds extra capacity for shippers out of Thailand.

“Global freight demand to and from Asia continues to grow and we're launching this additional capacity to support our customers' fast-moving critical cargo and e-commerce shipments from Bangkok and Shanghai,” said Igor Kwiatkowski, executive manager, Qantas Freight, in a press release.