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The courier company UPS celebrated 20 years working in partnership with Orio al Serio Airport by announcing that it would be consolidating its operating facilities at the Bergamo airport. Speakers at the event, which was promoted in collaboration with Sacbo, included Mario Ratti, president of the airport management company, Frank Sportolari, Country Manager for UPS Italy, Carol Z. Perez, Consul General at the U.S. Consulate General in Milan, and institutional representatives such as Franco Tentorio, mayor of Bergamo, and Silvia Lanzani, councillor for large-scale infrastructure, regional planning and expo at the Province of Bergamo.

Since 1989 the UPS facility at Orio al Serio Airport has been the express courier's main gateway to Italy. In fact all UPS international air shipments departing from and arriving in Italy's northwest pass through the Bergamo airport. The UPS Bergamo gateway is continually expanding. The facility inaugurated today is the result of an expansion project that sees floorspace increase from 1,864 square metres in 2002 to 4,640 square metres currently, and sorting capacity from 2,000 to 3,500 packages an hour.

Today, UPS operates two daily flights with Boeing 767-200s connecting Orio al Serio Airport to the Cologne/Bonn air cargo hub, the site of the largest UPS sorting centre in Europe. In addition, the facility, which is already equipped with state-of-the-art technology, has been refurbished with new conveyor belts, special platforms for handling air containers, twelve loading/unloading bays groundside and eight bays airside, an area dedicated entirely to screening packages thanks to four sophisticated new x-ray machines below which all packages transiting through the gateway pass.

"UPS is firmly committed to the Italian market, which is why it has continued to invest in the Orio al Serio gateway in recent years. The expansion of our operating

facilities is intended to be a response to the vital role played by the air transport sector. With this investment we are confident that we can offer our customers international services with high added value that help Italian firms to compete successfully in the global market,” said Frank Sportolari, UPS Italy Country Manager. “At an economically difficult time such as the one we are going through right now, this new development takes on great significance in terms of local growth and employment,” concluded Mr. Sportolari.

“In terms of cargo services and courier flights, as with air passenger transport services, Sacbo aims to confirm and strengthen its role as the province’s economic “engine”, with the purpose of maintaining employment levels and stimulating GDP growth for the entire area of reference, despite the current difficult economic situation. Indeed, UPS’s established presence is linked to Orio al Serio Airport’s operations historically, and represents the continuity of a service which has brought benefits to the local economy for twenty years,” said Mario Ratti, Sacbo’s president. “Besides ensuring standards of efficiency and security, UPS has always shown the utmost flexibility in planning its operations in a way that is consistent with local needs. It is a strategic asset of great importance for the local economic system and companies that put their trust in the priority shipment service and more generally for all activities involving relations with foreign partners and markets.”

Orio al Serio (BG), 24th November 2009