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John Menzies plc today announced that Concorde Express, a member of the Menzies Transport Services (MTS) division, has been awarded a contract to provide air cargo handling and trucking services for Qantas Airways at Heathrow.

Concorde Express, which began its full air cargo handling and trucking service for airlines in 1997, will now handle Qantas alongside Canadian Airlines, both of whom are members of the oneworld alliance, in its modern, automated air cargo facility. Qantas' freight is currently handled by British Airways and it will move to Concorde Express on 29th December 1998.

Commenting on the contract win, David Mackay, Chief Executive of John Menzies, said: "This is excellent news for Menzies Transport Services. Qantas is an important customer at Heathrow operating two daily Boeing 747 flights, which carry over 10,000 tonnes of air freight annually. It is another milestone in the expansion of our air transport services business and demonstrates the Group's commitment to develop its presence in this fast growing sector. We look forward to working closely with Qantas."

"John Menzies has steadily been building MTS and in July of this year formed London Cargo Centre, a joint venture with Lufthansa Airport & Ground Services, to operate Lufthansa Cargo AG's cargo terminal at Heathrow. These developments have firmly established MTS as a major UK airport services operator."