



Our History

2000 - Present

The Modern Age

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The beginning of the 21st century saw John Menzies plc continue its movement away from traditional sectors and into the fast-growing Aviation Services Market.

After selling The Early Learning Centre to a new company funded by 3i, Barclays and management for a total consideration of £29.6m in September **2001**, the Group began a series of transactions linked to the Aviation and News wholesaling markets.

In October of the same year, Menzies Aviation Group acquired Parc Aviation Handling Limited in Dublin; and John Menzies plc reached conditional agreement for the purchase of the Sheffield and Guildford news wholesaling operations of Turners News Ltd.

January **2002** saw the Group buy out GlobeGrounds's holding in Menzies World Cargo for £5.1m and divest its 49% stake in GlobeGround (UK) Limited for £5.8m.

Menzies Aviation Group went on to acquire Fr8, becoming the leading independent cargo handler in the Netherlands; and The Wyng Group, a UK based ground handling and air cargo trucking organisation, in February and April respectively.

In January **2004**, Menzies Aviation and easyJet reached a landmark agreement, establishing a 4-year joint venture which would perform all of easyJet's passenger and aircraft handling at London Luton Airport.

In March **2006**, the Company announced that it had received regulatory clearance from the Office of Fair Trading to complete its conditional acquisition of Chester Independent Wholesale Newsagents Limited ("CIWN"), a well-established and successful newspaper and magazine wholesaler with territory covering Cheshire and North Wales.

This was followed in May by the acquisition of North West Wholesale News, a similar business serving the Preston area.

Menzies Aviation completed the acquisition of Aeroground, Inc., a provider of air cargo services in the USA and Canada, in the same month. It was to be the first of a spate of deals before the end of the year.

- Malmö Main Air Cargo AB ("MAC"), a provider of cargo handling and trucking services based at Malmö-Sturup airport in Sweden, was acquired in August;
- Catamount Holdings LLC, a cargo services business in Chicago, and of Integrated Airline Services Alliance LLC, a ground handler based at Fort Lauderdale, Florida followed in September;
- Perth Cargo Centre Ltd., an Australian cargo handling operation was purchased in October;
- and Express Baggage (Heathrow) Limited, a provider of luggage services for major airlines operating at London Heathrow Airport and five regional airports around the UK, was acquired in November

The Company announced in December that Menzies Distribution had entered into a conditional joint venture with Eason & Son Ltd, to combine their newspaper and magazine distribution businesses in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The year **2007** saw a continuing trend of expansion in both business areas.

In April Menzies Aviation acquired Universal Air Cargo PTY Ltd (UAC), an international wholesale freight forwarder operating at 11 locations in Australasia and the USA which would provide a platform for further growth of the AMI business.

June saw the Company acquire Grays of York, an Independent news wholesaler which previously served retailers in the York area, adding scale to existing Menzies operations in the region.

In November, Menzies Aviation began operations in Sweden and Norway following the acquisition of Northport. The addition of contracts to handle easyJet at Copenhagen later in the year provided an opportunity to create regional density in Scandinavia.

Menzies Aviation began a further round of acquisitions in early **2008**.

Airline Cargo Resources, a cargo handling business operating at Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, was purchased in January, giving the business at presence at all South Africa's major airports.

MMA Consolidators was purchased in March, and immediately rebranded under the AMI mark, solidifying AMI's place as a product in its own right.

Expansion also continued in Scandinavia, with the acquisition of Novia Sverige, a ground handling business operating at Stockholm and Gothenburg airports.

Rounding off a busy March, operations commenced at new Greenfield airports in Hyderabad - ground and cargo handling - and Bangalore, which focused solely on cargo.

February **2009** saw Menzies Aviation begin ground handling operations at 10 airports across South Africa.

Later in the year, the effects of the global recession began to be felt as the Group announced a 26% reduction in Cargo volumes.

The financial controls implemented by the Group in response to this downturn were highly effective, and in March **2010** John Menzies plc announced that its focus on debt reduction and cost control in 2009 had reduced debt by over £50m.

In May of the same year, Airspace over Europe was closed due to the presence of volcanic ash in the upper atmosphere from the eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökul. Menzies Aviation employees responded by flexing working patterns and reducing working hours and costs, and helping to mitigate the impact of this natural disaster on the business.

Menzies Aviation ended the year on an upbeat note, acquiring Transivania Handling Service in Romania.

In March **2011**, Menzies Aviation opened its 117th station in Darwin, Australia; at the time, this was the 10th location in the Oceania region operated as a Jetstar hub with some 23 flights per week.

The acquisition of Airosupport, an aircraft presentation business, led to the commencement of operations at Southampton Airport in September; and the company entered France in November, beginning ground handling operations in Toulouse.

In March **2012**, Menzies Aviation won a major contract from British Airways, to handle all 19,500 of the airline's annual flights at Edinburgh, Manchester & Glasgow airports.

In August of the same year, a pair of acquisitions expanded the company's reach. Kamino Cargo, a cargo handler based at Bucharest airport, took Menzies into Romanian cargo handling; while in the UK, the purchase of Flight Support added 3 new airport locations to the network.

These deals were followed in September by the acquisition of the Prague Airport Ground Handling Unit.

In October, John Menzies plc celebrated 50 years listed on the London Stock Exchange.

Menzies Distribution acquired Orbital Marketing Services Group in November, for £12.6m, a deal which expanded the business into new sectors and added further complementary services to its existing logistics and marketing services capabilities.

August **2013** saw Menzies Aviation announce two major acquisitions.

Desacol, a Colombian ground and cargo handling business operating in 5 airports, was purchased for a maximum consideration of £6.4m. Desacol handles 60,000 turnarounds and 50,000 tonnes of cargo per annum; provided an opportunity to develop relationships with key customers; and brought entry into a new, attractive national market.

Skystar, an Australian ground handler operating at 8 airports across Oceania and handling 17,000 turnarounds per annum, was purchased for £7.7m. The acquisition brought entry into the Perth ground handling market and was viewed as an excellent consolidation play in the important Australia and New Zealand markets.

In December of the same year, Menzies Aviation's team in Johannesburg were honoured to handle more than 40 V.V.I.P. flights for world leaders and dignitaries attending a memorial event, following the passing of Nelson Mandela.

2014 began with the commencement of cargo handling for Etihad in Amsterdam Schiphol airport.

July saw the business open new cargo operations in Toronto and Montreal to serve a contract with Air France / KLM; this was followed in October by the start of a major new ground handling contract with United Airlines at Denver.

Late in the year, Menzies Aviation proudly served as the exclusive ground handler to the November G20 Summit in Brisbane, before extending its partnership with Qantas Airways for a three-year passenger and ramp contract at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown in New Zealand.

In February **2015**, Menzies Distribution acquired AJG Parcels, a parcel consolidation and delivery service covering the North and West of Scotland. This deal brought the company entry into the fast-growing UK parcel logistics market, a movement which accelerated with the purchase of Oban Express later that year.

The company began new 7 year contract with Norwegian Air Shuttle, at their home hub airport in Oslo and their base operation in Copenhagen, in April.

December saw All Nippon Airways return to the Australian market following a 30 year absence. Menzies Aviation was selected as handler for this prestigious contract.

The company's business in Denver grew substantially in September **2016**, as it began to handle all 60 daily flights for Frontier airlines, a large regional carrier. The contract represented a quarter of the airline's total scheduled flights, making this award a major vote of confidence in Menzies Aviation's service.

Following the collapse of a competitor business in the UK in December, Menzies Aviation picked up contracts with 16 new Airline customers at London Gatwick, making it the airport's largest ground handler.

In February **2017**, Menzies Aviation completed the acquisition of ASIG, the world's largest independent Into-Plane Fuelling business and a significant player in Fuel Farm management and Ground Handling, for \$202m. The largest acquisition in the Group's history, this deal made Menzies Aviation a leading, global player in the Aviation fuels market overnight.

Menzies Aviation concluded two smaller acquisitions later in the year, both aimed at building the company's cargo network: Farnair, a Budapest-based Cargo handler; and Coast Cargo in Gold Coast, Australia.

In **2018** John Menzies plc announced the proposed acquisition of Airline Services Limited ("Airline Services"), an Aircraft De-icing specialist providing De-icing and Aircraft Presentation services at 12 UK airports to over 60 airlines.

On 26 July 2018, the Board of John Menzies announced that it had entered into a conditional agreement to sell the entire issued share capital of Menzies Distribution Limited, the main trading company and holding company in respect of Menzies Distribution, to investment funds managed by Endless LLP. The Disposal was approved by the Company's shareholders at general meetings held on 22 August 2018 and completed 5 September 2018.