

## Ethiopia's Addis Ababa cargo terminal nears completion

Ethiopian Airlines cargo terminal at its Addis Ababa hub will be completed in November 2005. Occupying an area of 14,000 sq m, the terminal will have a capacity in excess of 100,000 tons cargo per year. ICM Airport Technics GmbH, a 70 per cent subsidiary of Unitechnik, was awarded the contract to erect the automated material handling system of the terminal. Unitechnik will supply the entire control system for the project.



Addis Ababa, and hence its airport, due to its strategic location, has the potential to establish itself as an international hub for perishables such as flowers, fruit and meat. Prerequisite, however, is a facility that handles cargo in accordance with international standards and expectations. Perishables require, as highest priority, rapid processing as well as the maintenance of the integrity of the cold chain. It is for these reasons that a modern cargo terminal is a necessity.

The different areas in this perishable part of the terminal can be set at temperatures varying from -23°C to +11°C. Two Elevating Transfer Vehicles (ETVs) store and retrieve ULDs (Unit Load Device - aluminum containers used to transport cargo in aircraft) that can weigh up to 6.8 tons.

These ETVs operate in automatic mode on rails in a 200-location multi level storage rack, storing the ULDs with fast and reliable efficiency. It is expected that the terminal will go online by the end of 2005.