APIs:

Enabler of collaboration across the air cargo supply chain

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In the internet age, collaboration is much easier than duplication. APIs (application programming interfaces) allow businesses to access data and information seamlessly, rather than having to build their own tools in-house.

Google Maps API, for example, has been integrated in well-known applications, like Uber and Waze for tracking taxis and GPS services. Rather than creating a mapping system of their own, they take advantage of the data from a trusted and established industry provider to complement their own service offering.

The value of apps in the supply chain

Unlike in other industries, sellers and buyers across the air cargo supply chain must work together to fulfill the shipment lifecycle and, more importantly - keep the ultimate buyer and seller satisfied – i.e. the shipper and consignee. Different companies across the globe need to communicate with one another and exchange information at various times seamlessly.

Initial APIs for Traxon cargoHUB are already available today, whilst Handling APIs for Cargospot will be publicly available from Q4 this year and Airline APIs from Q2 2019.

The air cargo industry uses a broad range of technologies where many stakeholders use different cargo management systems and communicate using different message types and standards. APIs will play a pivotal role in bridging the profound gaps in the community. This principle can be applied to pricing and booking air cargo, tracking shipments, and even invoicing.

Forwarders and shippers

Booking: create, update, delete	Compute shipment price	View agent invoice
List allotments	Convert FWB to PDF	List contracts
Print barcode label	Track & trace	
Print AWB	Export to Power BI	Print FHL

Warehouse

Check-in shipment	Pick-up shipment from whse	Accept shipment
Offload container	Check-in HAWB	Buildup flight
Manifest flight		
Accept container	Check-in container	

Discrepancy

Capture irregularity	Capture damage report	Capture found cargo

As such, the air cargo supply chain aspires to be fully digitalized – empowering accurate, safe, and timely data sharing on-demand with every stakeholder.

To support these quick market changes and technology evolution, CHAMP has built a software oriented architecture (SOA) where micro-services support this increased digitalization. CHAMP has a program of API exposure for two of its main products: Traxon cargoHUB, CHAMP's messaging platform, and the Cargospot suite of cargo management systems.

APIs also give you the ability to "pick & mix" from a diverse set of features and functionalities and deliver quick and easy integrations with your existing systems without having to rewrite them and/or risk their performance and integrity. Additionally, this allows you to customize your functionality to your needs. Rather than having to reinvent the wheel and take on yet another system to fulfill a requirement, you can achieve the functionality quickly and efficiently through an API.

This open set up not only brings providers together but also every part of the air cargo community. It allows for the free access of information between systems and accelerates collaboration capabilities within the air cargo industry and beyond.

For more information on CHAMP's current and future APIs, please email marketing@champ.aero.