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## What's behind the deal bringing a \$30M air cargo facility to BHM

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Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport

The Birmingham Airport Authority has revealed plans for its new air cargo facility.

BAA approved signing a contract with Stone Building Co. for construction of a 53,000-square-foot air cargo facility at BHM at its

May 16 meeting. Though it was originally slated for multiple tenants, Kuehne + Nagel, which recently revealed major plans for BHM, will be the facility's sole tenant.

"At a minimum, we have nearly doubled our ability to handle cargo at this airport," BAA CEO Ron Mathieu said at the meeting.

About 48,500 square feet of the facility will be warehousing space. It will include 17 loading docks, five airside bay doors, two roll-up doors, two separate office suites, mezzanine areas, 16,970 square yards of concrete apron and expanding apron 50 feet to the south of the facility.

"We are hopeful that this will decrease the cost for people who have to ship cargo currently from Atlanta here," Mathieu said.

The contract for the facility is expected to be signed May 24, the same day a groundbreaking is scheduled. The project is expected to cost roughly \$27 million, but has a 10% contingency allowing spending up to nearly \$30 million. BAA is paying for the project in whole with its own funds.

Mathieu said the facility is a critical piece allowing the airport to have robust cargo operations.

"This is one of those situations where we have an opportunity to go forward and do something different, do something great," he said. "What we were doing before didn't work. And so since we made the decision and the board has agreed to go forward with this, we now have Kuehne + Nagel because we made this commitment. It would not have happened without that."



**A.J. O'Leary**

Banking and Legal Reporter - *Birmingham Business Journal*

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