

Disruptions to the supply chain on the high seas



Visual: <https://oilprice.com/Energy>

Goods transportation by sea remains predominant in global trade. Shipping disruptions have extensive implications on trade and supply chains, including inflation and food and energy security, according to SAPICS, an authority in supply chain management.

In the first quarter of 2024, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Maritime Bureau (IMB) expressed concerns over maritime piracy resurgence off Somalia's coast. The report documented 33 piracy and armed robbery incidents against ships, compared to 27 in the same period in 2023. These incidents included boardings, attempted attacks, hijackings, and violence against crew members.



John WH Denton

John WH Denton AO, ICC Secretary General, emphasised the need to safeguard trade routes and protect seafarers amidst piracy threats, emphasising the importance of uninterrupted trade flow.

Additionally, challenges arose in two vital shipping lanes. Houthi rebel attacks in the Bab al-Mandab Strait redirected vessels around southern Africa, reducing trade volumes through the Suez Canal by 40%. Similarly, climate-related issues in Panama caused a 30% decrease in trade through the Panama Canal. Panama's plan for a 'dry canal' aims to address these challenges. Meanwhile, South African ports face congestion and infrastructure issues hindering their potential as alternatives.

These disruptions impact global maritime trade significantly, affecting businesses, economies, and consumers. UNCTAD reports shortages in goods due to extended cargo delivery times, particularly affecting East African avocado, tea,

and coffee supply chains. Rerouting vessels around Africa adds approximately 12 days to shipping journeys, reducing effective container shipping capacity by about 9%.

In addition to piracy and geopolitical tensions, environmental concerns also pose challenges to maritime trade. The increase in extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and typhoons, disrupts shipping schedules and port operations, further exacerbating supply chain disruptions.

In summary, disruptions in maritime trade necessitate proactive risk identification and mitigation strategies to navigate the challenges posed by piracy, geopolitical tensions, and environmental factors. **SR**



The Rubymar is the first ship to have been sunk by the Houthis. www.bbc.com

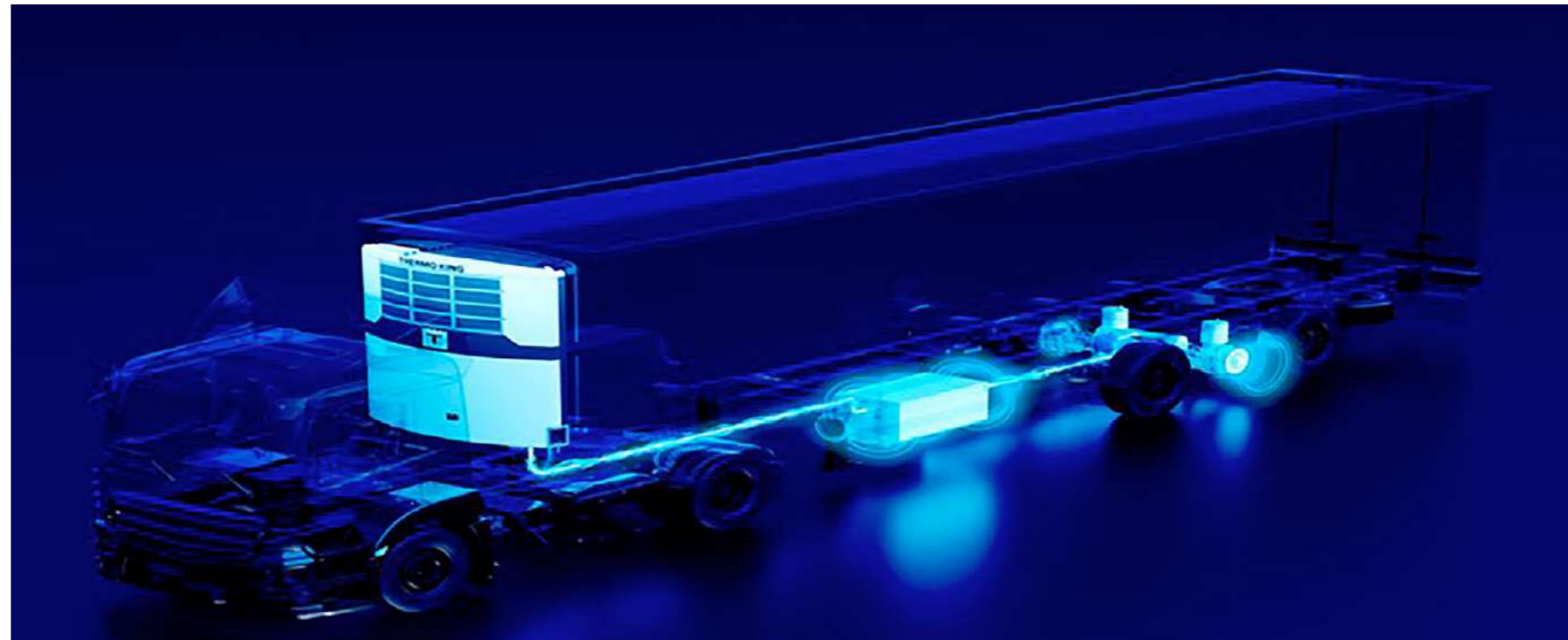


Transport Cooling Africa is proud to announce the launch of Thermo King AxlePower with BPW's ePower Axle Technology in Africa

Transport Cooling Africa, as the proud supplier of Thermo King products in Southern Africa, announces the launch of Thermo King's AxlePower, a pioneering technology engineered for sustainability, zero emissions, and unparalleled energy efficiency. AxlePower represents a monumental leap towards a cleaner, greener future.

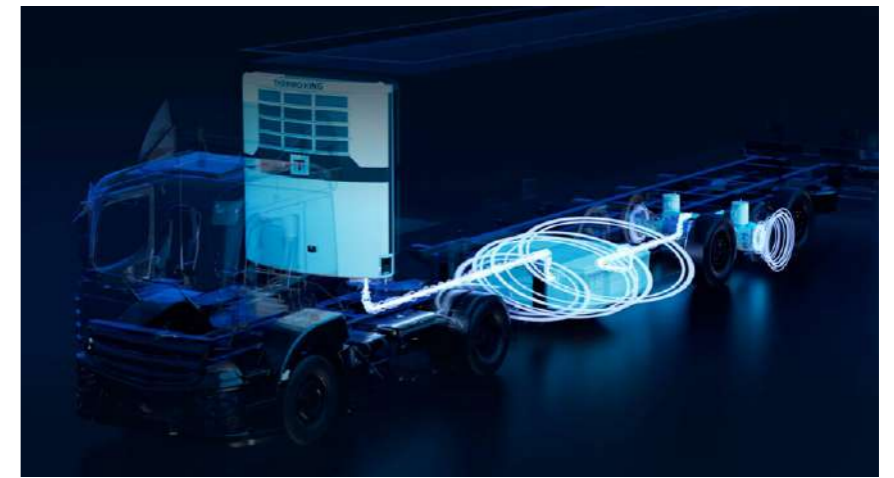
The AxlePower technology with BPW's ePower axle, the latest innovation in Thermo King's technologies portfolio, converts energy from the vehicle and its braking system into a continuous power source for Trailer Refrigeration Units.

In addition to the introduction of this new exciting technology, Transport Cooling Africa celebrates a pioneering milestone, delivering the inaugural AxlePower power technology system to DP World. With eight additional systems slated for installation over the next two months to various other industry leading customers, the partnership between Transport Cooling Africa and its industry leading customers, underscores a commitment to efficiency and environmental stewardship.



The AxlePower technology is a fully integrated system that combines Thermo King hybrid or fully electric trailer refrigeration units, BPW's ePower axle energy recovery system, and battery storage technologies developed to create an efficient, autonomously powered trailer refrigeration solution. The system stores the energy generated while the vehicle is rolling or braking in a high voltage battery and reuses it to power the refrigeration unit and keep the cargo at optimal temperature.

The AxlePower system is tractor-independent, which makes it easy to deploy across the customer's fleet. The technology also offers immediate compatibility with all Thermo King and Frigoblock trailer refrigeration units.



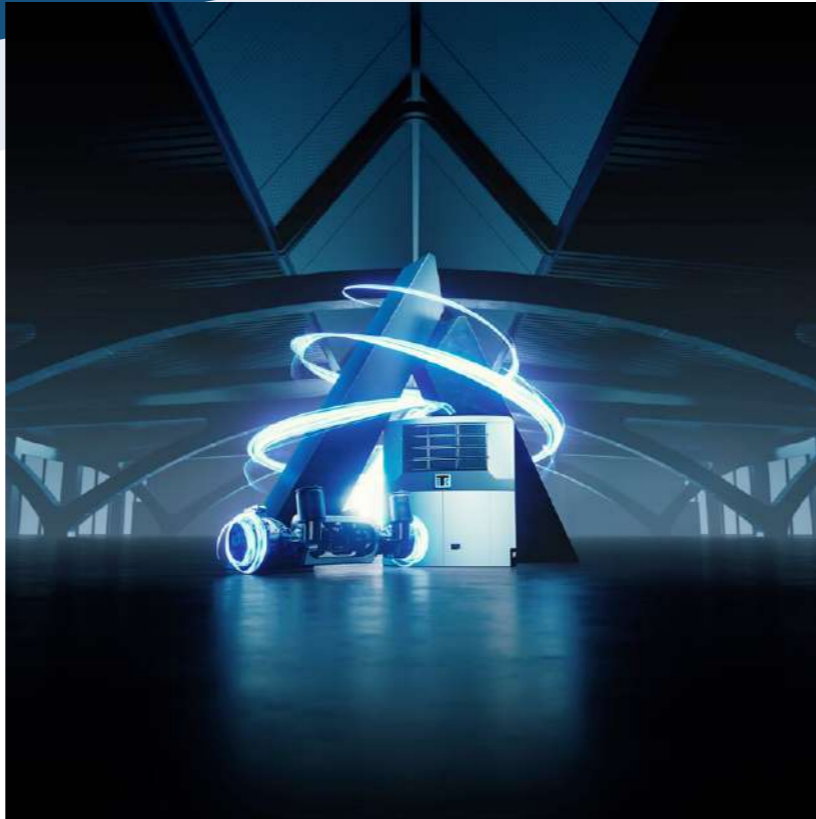
The deployment of Thermo King's AxlePower technology offers multifaceted advantages to our customers, ranging from enhanced energy efficiency to substantial cost savings and environmental stewardship. It furthermore reduces reliance on fossil fuels, fosters goodwill, and enhances brand reputation, positioning our customer as a leader in corporate sustainability and responsible business practices.

As we look towards the future, the integration of AxlePower technology serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration, signalling the dawn of a new era in energy efficiency and environmental sustainability on the African continent and beyond.

About Transport Cooling Africa (Pty) Ltd

Transport Cooling Africa, a subsidiary of the Beijer Ref Group has been one of Southern Africa's largest independent suppliers of transport refrigeration equipment, tail lifts and load body accessories for over 55 years.

We are the official Thermo King and Anteo authorized sales, service, and parts dealer in Southern Africa. Thermo King is the world leader in transport temperature control systems for trucks, trailers, buses, rail cars, container units and gensets.



Transport Cooling Africa has built its success on unparalleled industry knowledge and exceptional, reliable service. We supply our Transport temperature control customers cutting edge technologies, so that they can build better and sustainable businesses. Visit www.transportcoolingafrica.com for more information.

About Thermo King

Thermo King – by Trane Technologies (NYSE: TT), a global climate innovator – is a worldwide leader in sustainable transport temperature control solutions. Thermo King has been providing transport temperature control solutions for a variety of applications, including trailers, truck bodies, buses, air, shipboard containers, and railway cars since 1938. For more information, visit www.europe.thermoking.com or www.tranetechnologies.com.



About BPW Axles (Pty) Ltd

BPW Axles has been operating in South Africa for almost 80 years. Initially known as ERN Quality Products (Pty) Ltd, and since 1962, in BPW Bergische Achsen KG's hands making it the oldest daughter company in the BPW Group. BPW Axles proudly assembles the latest BPW running gear range and components, selected to suit all agricultural and heavy-duty applications for Southern Africa. For more information visit <https://bpw.co.za/>

About BPW Bergische Achsen Kommanditgesellschaft

BPW Bergische Achsen KG is the parent company of the BPW Group. With around 1 500 employees, including around one hundred trainees, the family-run company has been developing and producing complete running gear systems for truck trailers and semi-trailers at its headquarters in Wiehl since 1898. BPW's technologies include axle systems, brake technology, suspension, and bearings. BPW's trailer axles and running gear systems are in use in millions of vehicles around the world. An extensive range of services also provides vehicle manufacturers and vehicle operators with the opportunity to increase economic efficiency in their production and transport processes. www.bpw.de/en

