

DHL, Teamsters agree on tentative pact, ending Cincinnati hub strike



About 1,100 DHL newly organized Teamsters went on strike Dec. 7 at the company's Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky hub (pictured above), with picket lines extending to other airports. Photo credit: DHL Express.

William B. Cassidy, Senior Editor | Dec 19, 2023, 4:20 PM EST

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters said Tuesday it had reached a tentative agreement with DHL Express to end a 12-day strike at the company's Cincinnati hub.

The strike involved 1,100 DHL workers who are members of Teamsters Local 100 at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. Picket lines were extended to other DHL facilities across the US, including Boston and Los Angeles, escalating the conflict.

Details of the tentative pact with DHL were not released, but the union said it includes enhanced workplace safety, higher wages and better benefits. The agreement will be

sent to rank-and-file members for a ratification vote as soon as possible, the Teamsters said in a statement.

“Picket lines established by Teamsters Local 100 were honored and held down all over this country, making clear to DHL and employers everywhere that Teamsters solidarity is a force to be reckoned with,” Teamsters General President Sean M. O’Brien said in the statement.

The Teamsters organized the DHL workers in Cincinnati and northern Kentucky earlier this year and had been negotiating a contract since July. The strike began when negotiations broke down.

A labor agreement would smooth the way for further DHL Express expansion in the US. DHL added a second facility in Denver earlier this year and is expanding an existing terminal in Southern California.

The company did not immediately issue a statement on the deal.

The DHL strike is the latest in a long list of Teamster activity around the US in 2023. The union ratified a new five-year agreement with UPS — its largest employer — in August. UPS and the Teamsters avoided a threatened strike in Louisville this month when the company reinstated laid-off workers.

Contact William B. Cassidy at bill.cassidy@spglobal.com.

© 2023 S&P Global. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

You are permitted to print or download extracts from this material for your personal use only. None of this material may be used for any commercial or public use. For more information on reprints/eprints, please visit <https://subscribe.joc.com/mediasolutions/>.