

Transporeon helps ITL to increase transport efficiency

Interforest Terminal London (ITL) is the largest paper terminal in the UK. The site, east of London in the Port of Tilbury, serves companies in the metropolitan area and mainly in the Midlands, but with deliveries throughout the UK, with a variety of products such as newsprint, pulp, timber and lightweight coated paper. Used for magazines. ITL is part of a bigger chain of SCA sites within Europe. Earlier this year ITL switched from one single haulier for its transportation to using the Transporeon platform. The result has been a better overview of the transport orders of the company. In addition, ITL was able to improve efficiency and save costs in the forwarding department. Overall, the company reduced its transport costs about ten per cent.

ITL's forwarding supervisor, Peter Lowe, explained that he took the already developed platform idea from the Rotterdam Terminal of SCA. "After seeing the results of the Rotterdam example, we decided to implement the software platform over here and split the loads to the nature of work," he said. "We have some short lead times for which the platform is not the ideal solution, but for the majority of the shipments the platform is a very useful help." Indeed, the ITL site is currently loading on average a hundred lorries per day.

Getting the best price

ITL's two workloads are Kraft liner cargo transports and cargo with a longer lead time. Lowe elaborated: "Our Kraftliner cargo shipments do have a very short lead time.

Sometimes we don't know what to deliver to a customer until 12.00 on a certain day, when this should be delivered the next day. We use Transporeon for these transports, and send the order via a No Touch function to our contracted carrier." The platform is used significantly more often for Best Carrier transports. "These orders have a significantly longer lead time, from three or four days to a maximum of three weeks or a month," explained Lowe. "After placing them on the platform, we know we'll get the best price from the hauliers we accepted on Transporeon."

Previously, ITL was used to dealing with one trusted haulier with whom it agreed on fixed prices for transport orders. After switching to the Transporeon platform the company was able to start working with a range of different hauliers, and, more importantly, connect only with those carriers that meet the demands of SCA. "Since we went live with the software we added 36 hauliers to our carrier group, but we are looking for more of them," Lowe pointed out. "The more carriers we can connect to the platform, the better service we can offer our customers."

Maintaining good relationships with carriers

Everything related to ITL's transportation operations is now being handled via the Transporeon platform; from tendering to awarding the Kraftliner cargo. The Tilbury site is a little different in its way of dealing with transports compared to, for example, the Rotterdam site. "Rotterdam was working with

several carriers before it switched to the platform," said Lowe. "They have been able to define their strategy for either putting transport orders on Transporeon or contacting a carrier directly. What we have in common is that we don't use the platform just to get the best price for a transport. We both feel a need to maintain a good relationship with our carriers." Lowe is convinced that most hauliers working for ITL are happy with the use of Transporeon. And since going live with the Transporeon platform he points out that it has been a lot quieter in the forwarding department. Telephone calls are now only used in situations when a haulier didn't confirm an order or didn't show up for a load on the next day.

Reducing waiting times

The implementation of the Transporeon platform took no longer than two months. "And it worked immediately, with offers coming from the hauliers," said Lowe. He added that several months down the line the company is now looking for new steps to take in improving its transport activities. For example, ITL is considering adding the Time Slot Management module, where hauliers need to book a timeslot for loading or unloading. "This will reduce waiting times," said Lowe. "At the moment we operate on a first-come-first-served method. The slot booking will provide hauliers with a fixed time to load and unload cargo. In addition we will look for growth. We created a win-win situation for both us and our hauliers by improving efficiency. This should help us both to grow now as well in the future." ●

Transporeon

Transporeon is a logistics platform provider that connects shippers from industry and trading companies with their logistics partners: hauliers, drivers and consignees. The platform optimises and accelerates logistics processes by Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) solutions.

The Transporeon Group was established in 2000 and is now a European market leader for e-logistics platforms, enjoying a high degree of acceptance among shippers and their hauliers. Currently more than 600 industry and trading companies, more than 28,000 carriers and more than 60,000 users from 70 countries are connected via the Transporeon platform. The platform, as well as the customer service, is available in 19 languages.

Solutions offered

Shippers and carriers battle daily with increasing competition in the logistics market. Pressure to consolidate fluctuating volumes of cargo, high fuel prices, statutory regulations and an insufficient number of drivers limit the possibilities of reduced costs. Chances to improve can be found in cooperation, supported by intelligent IT-solutions such as Transporeon. The solution provides a cost-effective, transparent way of handling all transport logistics processes.

The Transporeon platform is structured in modules:

- The heart of the platform is the electronic Transport Assignment module, which manages hauliers and freight rates.
- The second module, Time Slot Management, offers an ideal solution for dock and yard management. This can be used in combination with transport assignment or stand-alone.
- Transporeon offers Transport Visibility of the assigned loads, with which proof of delivery can be tracked throughout the process.

Industrial markets served

The use of the Transporeon platform is of interest for all industrial companies. Relevant savings potential can be yielded in industries with high logistics costs in relation to the value of goods. Examples are: Automotive, Building materials, Chemical industry, FMCG, Electronics, Energy, Retail market, Timber, Plastics, Airfreight, Machine Construction, Paper – cardboard – printing, Recycling & Waste, Steel & Aluminium and Forwarders

Countries served

Transporeon serves customers worldwide from its headquarters in Germany and sales offices in 24 countries, across Europe, USA and Asia. The company also has Customer Care centres in Poland, Belgium, Germany and Italy.

Website: www.transporeon.com

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