

Automating Shipping Solution Deployment: *Improving Operational Efficiencies*

This white paper is intended as a guide for those responsible for the shipping department in a warehouse, distribution, logistics or manufacturing facility for the advantages that can be gained from deploying an automated shipping system with essential integrated features that can significantly contribute to savings.

Over the last decade, businesses tried to keep up with demand by applying new technologies in their warehouse, distribution, logistics and manufacturing facilities. However, within the past two past years, businesses have been experiencing just the opposite, with slowing orders and excess inventories. With sluggish times, many have begun to see the inefficiencies and bottlenecks within their shipping operations, and have taken steps to address these issues in an effort to reduce costs.

Cost Alignment to Cost Savings

ADSI has observed that many customers using ADSI Multi-Carrier Shipping Solutions have realized savings of 40% and a reduction of errors by 50% vs. their manual process using minimal technology. For our customers, that means saving tens of thousands to millions of dollars per year.

There are many different types of shipping systems offered in the marketplace today. Just like most industries, the shipping technology business has also been affected by the economy, which is why key attributes of the vendor's organization need to be evaluated prior to product evaluation:

- Has the core shipping technology continued to be improved?
- Have the latest carrier-provided technologies been incorporated into the vendor's products, in order to provide additional savings and return on investment?



- Does the company employ experienced service professionals who can help make process improvements, software customizations and a smooth integration into your current WMS, Oracle, SAP or other ERP systems?
- Do they have a centralized support team or is customer support the same people out on site installing/servicing the software?

Overall Benefits to Shipping Automation

A multi-carrier shipping system is intended to give an overall ability to identify and solve complex shipping issues in a cost-effective way. It is designed to manage multiple regional, national and LTL carriers, compare freight costs for best selection, as well as provide and incorporate transit times in the decision process.

By taking proactive control of your shipments, you can identify which carriers are best served by state, region or national scale. Not all shipping carriers are cost effective in the regions your company serves. This feature gives you the power to know who you want to use, for which products, and by territory. Again, customers have reported thousands to millions of dollars of savings by implementing that latest shipping automation technologies.

Automatic Identification of Residential Addresses

Shipping departments each day send packages to residences that were routed for business. This simple mistake can cause incorrect assessments of shipping costs and can mean the difference between profit and loss. "The built in intelligence with ADSI allows companies to automatically determine residential delivery addresses and realize the actual revenue without taking a loss due to inaccurate shipping rates," said Phil Terman, Vice President of Services at ADSI.

Correct Address Confidence

Address correction costs can at times result in significant fees being billed back to the shipper. With ADSI, you can have the confidence in knowing the address you ship to is a legitimate location. With ADSI, your address will be verified against a database of known addresses, saving you from costly addresses correction fees from the carrier.

Shipping system providers may say they have it ...but how far do they take it?

- There are key features that can be instrumental in your cost saving measures within your shipping department.
- Be sure to fully compare key features and their integration strategy as all shipping systems are created differently.

Electronic Postage

Companies searching for ways to use lower costs by using USPS in their shipping department or those that want to be able to ship higher volume through the postal service can have that ability integrated into their shipping system.

An electronic postage system generates a bar code on a 4 x 6 shipping label which takes the place of a postage meter tape, offering further discounts to make shipping with the USPS a cost effective alternative. Integrating the electronic postage directly into the shipping system, results in a faster return on investment. Supported domestic services are for First-Class Mail, Priority Mail, Express Mail, Media Mail, Library Mail, Bound-Printed Matter and Parcel Post. International services are for First Class, Express and Priority. An ROI analysis prior to implementation will help realize maximum cost savings.

UPS Fuel Surcharge Updater

The price of fuel continues to fluctuate daily. As the performance of the economy steady increases, so will costs, making accurate record fuel surcharges a major challenge. An automatic fuel surcharge update feature updates the rates as soon as UPS releases the adjustments, allowing companies to realize significant cost savings.

AES International

The paper SED which was replaced with the electronic online filing process is not only time consuming but errors can easily occur. These errors can cost up to \$10,000 in fines per filing. Fines will also be imposed if no filing process takes place at all. It's critical for companies that ship internationally to have a completely automated process integrated directly into the shipping system to reduce or eliminate filing errors.

The result of integrating an electronic process to create customs documents eliminates hundreds, if not thousands, of manual keystrokes for international orders.

A process that involved numerous different workers to sort out paperwork and match it up with corresponding boxes, now involves only one shipper.

Key take-aways

- **Shipping automation is an all-encompassing solution to your supply chain requirements.**
- **The right solution will streamline your processes and decrease your overall costs.**
- **Allow your business to keep current with carrier fees and governmental regulations.**
- **Implementation through a full-service provider will increase your operational ROI.**

Paperless Invoicing

ADSI solutions allow you to submit your customs documentation electronically, eliminating the need to print multiple copies — it's all processed electronically. With this shipping solution, you'll gain operational efficiencies, save time and money, and enjoy greater peace of mind. You'll also be contributing to a more eco-friendly process.

Order Staging

Improve and manage your pick, pack, and shipping flow by combining orders destined for the same location. This process is called "staging". Since many companies ship separate orders to the same location throughout the day, a product like Stage-IT can organize these orders so that your shipping personnel can organize all like orders and ship them as one. This can really save time and money by not having to pack and ship multiple times for the same location. This will also help you avoid unnecessary accessorial fees.

The Company

Search for a shipping solutions provider that has the resources necessary to deliver full service. From project start through project completion and ongoing support, all elements are important to achieve a return on your investment. A fully staffed help desk is critical to the ability to respond quickly to your concern. In addition, corporate stability and standing in the marketplace will be key to having confidence in a long term relationship.

A Complete Evaluation

It's never easy deciding which technology is best for your business. But having key features that add significant savings to the bottom line and the capability of the selected provider may be the difference between breaking even and profitability.

For more information:

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