

Driving efficiencies in transport planning

BOOXpress GmbH: Advancing the logistic supply of literature



Responsible for supplying books to a vast network of high-street and online retailers, freight business BOOXpress was keen to improve efficiencies.

To understand the scale of the logistic requirements, its parent company, Libri, stores around a million books at its logistics center in Bad Hersfeld, with its entire catalog exceeding 10 million titles.

Almost every single night, BOOXpress distributes books from Libri via a hub-and-spoke network to trans-shipment points throughout Germany and Austria. The products are then distributed regionally from each of these points.

Supplying everything from the smallest individual shipments to huge Euro pallets, the logistics vary considerably, making planning and control essential.

At a glance

Project goals

- Establish a homogeneous system for planning and controlling an extensive transport network
- Automate a significant number of processes to drive transport operation efficiency

Solution

- Körber's Transport Management System (TMS)
- Körber's POD

Features and benefits

- Automatic planning in the multi-level transport network and in areas such as loading, empties and account management
- Reliable resource forecasts
- Minimization of errors in the booking process
- Status transparency of individual transport orders



Challenge

In order to prepare itself for future logistic challenges, BOOXpress needed to replace its existing heterogeneous system landscape, which it had used to plan and control its entire transport network. With conditions in the book and media retail market growing more and more volatile, this model had reached its limit. It was this factor that triggered BOOXpress to completely modernize its system landscape.

Solution

Designed to enhance planning and control efficiencies across large transport networks, Körber's suite of transport management solutions was the obvious choice for BOOXpress.

Developed by logistic software specialists Körber, the system is able to distinguish between regular transport sequences in fixed master routes, delivery routes and stops, enabling order-oriented delivery of all consignments.

With Körber's software, BOOXpress has a complete overview from the status of a single transport order to the entire transport network. BOOXpress can also rely on it to manage trips for over 400 trucks, dispatched six times a week.

To improve resource forecasting, orders are transferred to the TMS as early as possible. As soon as the package details become known after picking, transport orders are confirmed and assigned. Simultaneously, the system determines the correct trip in the network and assigns the order, while taking the target delivery date into account.

Results

In electing to use Körber's extensive transportation expertise, BOOXpress has realized a high level of automation and efficient transport processing across a multitude of operations. These include automatic planning in a multi-level transport network, automatic empties, account management, and more flexible billing options, as well as a connection to SAP FI/CO. With this integrated solution, BOOXpress has created a foundation for future development.

BOOXpress has also been able to use the TMS to display and support transport-specific billing variants. Using the system's billing module, BOOXpress can invoice transports and calculate services for clients such as Libri.

From the consolidation of accounting parameters, pre-accounting and pricing to the transfer to the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, all invoicing models are executed automatically based on the data in the TMS. In addition, Libri's customer service team can access trip data from anywhere in the supply network, using it to print documents and labels, and to inform customers about the status of their deliveries.

“With this solution a uniform software landscape was created, which centrally unites various functional areas.”

Henry Wiechers

Head of Controlling and Organization,
BOOXpress GmbH



Körber AG
Anckelmannsplatz 1
20537 Hamburg
T +49 40 21107-01
info@koerber.de
koerber-supplychain.com