Supply Chain Management—Logistics Services

Cost-effective logistics capabilities to meet today’s supply chain challenges.
Today’s supply chain models increase logistics demands
Today’s decentralized supply chain models and tighter trading partner collaborations demand expanded logistics capabilities—more stocking locations, more frequent ordering, smaller order sizes, more costly modes of transportation, multichannel distribution capabilities, the ability to configure to order, personalization and distributed responsibility. With the availability of improved visibility and fulfillment tools, the logistics function has become a key component of supply chain operations, helping to combat inefficiencies in warehouse labor, transportation and space utilization; and inaccuracies in inventories and customer shipments. Organizations now spend an average of 8–12 percent of sales on logistics, and this trend is increasing.

Implementing expanded yet cost-effective strategies for supply chain logistics has become a mission-critical objective.

New technologies can realize significant benefits
IBM Supply Chain Management Services—Logistics Services offers a full array of capabilities to address your challenges in the areas of cost reduction, return on assets and customer service. Our solutions encompass the design and implementation of strategy, process and technology elements to best meet your needs. As part of our solution, IBM can help you effectively implement new logistics technologies that can realize significant benefits:

- Warehouse management systems (WMS) offer potential savings in labor, space, accuracy, auditing and operations.
- Transportation management systems (TMS) offer potential savings in freight audit, carrier capacity, carrier contract management and optimal carrier selection.
- RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology offers item-level data visibility—a revolutionary advance that can improve product availability and reduce losses associated with shrinkage and product obsolescence.

Logistics functions are crucial to your on demand strategies
IBM defines an e-business on demand™ enterprise as one that has processes that are integrated end-to-end across the company and with key partners, suppliers and customers, enabling it to respond with speed to virtually any customer demand, market opportunity or external threat. Supply chain logistics play a crucial role in on demand strategies. Logistics capabilities resulting from WMS and TMS implementations, and realtime visibility and distributed fulfillment tools, provide the innovation and productivity improvements that are keys to your ability to dynamically and successfully respond to market changes in an on demand world.
IBM logistics capabilities can positively impact your success

IBM logistics solutions include network optimization, logistics outsourcing, warehouse layout and design, realtime visibility and collaborative fulfillment, and WMS, TMS and reverse logistics implementations. These solutions are fully integrated with other IBM Supply Chain Management offerings and can be combined in any number of ways to address your exact requirements and help you achieve greater success:

- Logistics strategy/network optimization—Design the optimal mix of facilities, locations, capabilities, transportation modes and stocking policies for the logistics network

- Logistics outsourcing—Assess outsourcing aspects, including evaluating outsourcing providers and managing the outsourcing implementation process

- Warehouse design—Assist with design or redesign of warehouse and distribution facilities, including analysis of layout, material handling, methods, capacity and throughput

- Collaborative order fulfillment and visibility—Design and implement process and Internet-based technology to provide visibility and realtime management of distributed order fulfillment across today’s complex, highly outsourced supply chains

- WMS implementation—Plan, select, design, integrate and implement WMS technologies to streamline warehouse and fulfillment operations

- TMS implementation—Plan, select, design, integrate and implement TMS technologies to enable transportation optimization, execution and performance management

- RFID—Design and implement RFID solutions that can effectively reduce supply chain inefficiencies within the distribution center and facilitate inventory visibility and tracking across the supply chain

- Reverse logistics—Plan, select, design, integrate and implement returns management systems technology to enable consistent returns processing and proactive returns management. Centralized returns information helps to track return patterns and enable fraud detection, improve customer service, facilitate one consistent accounting practice and validate customer agreements

- Transportation Resource Planning (TRP)—Plan, optimize, execute and measure your international transportation lifecycle from forecast to invoice through collaborative, integrated process solutions that can reduce inventory, lower cost and improve delivery reliability
Rely on our experience
With professionals in more than 160 countries, IBM Global Business Services is one of the world's largest consulting services organization, providing clients with business process and industry expertise, a deep understanding of technology solutions that address specific industry issues and the ability to design, build and run those solutions in a way that has the potential to deliver bottom-line business value. Detailed industry knowledge and extensive, strategic relationships with leading and emerging supply chain application vendors—including i2 Technologies; Manhattan Associates, Inc.; RedPrairie Corporation; and SAP—allow us to develop customized supply chain solutions that address your unique requirements. Known for innovative thinking built on focused business and technology research, IBM is committed to helping you fuse business insight with technology to drive lasting economic advantage.

For more information
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