IXSuite

Freight consolidation and transhipment; IT-technologies and solutions; ICT, Transport optimisation; Business to Business (B2B) solutions, Cooperation; Transport management, Fleet management; Data collection and statistics; Monitoring and Benchmarking of processes

IXSuite is a suite consisting of three main modules:

- **IXTransportOperator**: TMS (Transport Management System) for Transport Service Providers, irrespective of the transport mode (road, inland waterway)
- **IXTerminalOperator**: Inland TOS (Terminal Operation System), including virtual depot management, for the needs of tri-modal hinterland terminals
- **IXRailOperator**: for intermodal train operating. Train schedules, routes and rail capacity are grouped together in templates with all necessary resources including rolling stock and personnel.

IXOLUTION uses KPI for its implementation project management.
IXSuite supports the modal choice decision of intermodal transport operators
Combination of a TMS module with the TOS module results in savings in planning, operation and event management and consequently to a higher competitiveness
Availability of more updated and correct information helps to better response on events and a higher flexibility

Modality Independence: IXSuite provides full integration of all modules to support one ‘synchromodal’ workflow process
Process driven: The key asset is to be able to oversee and monitor the full process so that there is full visibility and manageability of all operational and financial aspects.
Open architecture for real time interfacing: Increased transparency and flexibility results from the real-time information on events and resource availability.

Ideal utilisation of infrastructure
Competitive logistics and transport system
Support of modal shift policy
Increased efficiency
Increased company profitability

Minimisation of financial risks
Increased competitiveness
Increased quality
Image
Increased flexibility

What was the main problem, idea or motivation that led to the development and introduction of the new practice?
Since the early 1990s, they have developed solutions for the transport and logistics market. In 2007, the standardisation of these solutions started, and this ended in the development of the IXSuite. Existing customers and projects have continuously challenged the experts to invent and develop good solutions for rapidly growing challenges such as increasing service demands.

What was the common practice before the implementation?
Until the 1990s, there was a low degree of automation in intermodal transport planning, execution and completion. There was less electronic data exchange between inland terminals, intermodal transport operators and their business partners. The actors had proprietary information systems that most often were not connected.

What was the purpose and the sustainability objective of the case?
IXSuite is not only feasible for an implementation, but also well utilised in the intermodal logistics industry, and it has become one of the leading intermodal TMS.

Solution
As the standard product is designed around an intermodal structure, it is IXOLUTION’s main focus to bring all requirements and developments in line with this structure. This allows the implementation of the same software in all the different situations.
IXOLUTION supports sustainable transport. Its customers have achieved the ‘Lean & Green’ certification based on IXSuite technologies.

The Transport Management System (TMS) and the Terminal Operating System (TOS), that form the basis for the IXSuite, were introduced by GreenCat in 2007. The rail operating module was added in 2012. The forerunner software suite Cat4Suite is older and had already been presented by predecessor CatLogic e.g. at the rail # tec 2005 exhibition. The customer base comprises several well-known European intermodal logistics service providers. In June 2013, in cooperation with PTV, a pilot application of an intermodal route planner was presented.

The whole IXSuite has a functional architecture that is multi-site (covering multiple intermodal terminals), multi-company (covering own and 3rd party’s terminals and transport equipment), multi-language and multi-currency (usable across several countries). Following the application mission of ‘intelligent execution’, the suite is based on the so-called ‘Execution Model’ that is
• process driven and workflow based,
• independent from the chosen mode of transport,
• and characterised by an open and real-time architecture.

IXSuite has an integrated document management module and capabilities for a full financial handling from quote to invoice, covering costs, purchase and sales, including self-billing.

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Relevant transport modes or supply chain elements:
• rail, road, inland waterway transport
• transport, transhipment, processes in transfer points (unloading, loading, handling, warehousing)
• Liquid&Bulk, Network Distribution, Container Haulage

Main actors involved:
• IXOLUTION
• Rail, Road, Inland waterway, Inland Terminal transport operators

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