NAME OF CASE

ePort - Port management system incorporating RIS

KeyWords:

Freight consolidation and transhipment; ICT, transport optimisation; Business to business (B2B) solutions, cooperation; Transport management, fleet management; Modelling and forecasting; Data collection and statistics; Monitoring and benchmarking of processes

Description:

ePort is a port management system based on RIS. RIS relevant data is directly accessible for port managers for planning purposes before vessels arrive at the port. All vessel information, IWT transport operator and cargo data is automatically available in the port management system.

The case was developed as a demonstrator for the EU project RISING (running 2009-2012). ePort is still being actively utilised in Vukovar on the Danube river and is supported by CRUP.

Benefits:

• Reduced waiting time and optimal planning for berth and locks in the ports
• Better connectivity with other modes, optimised transhipment planning (towards rail and truck)
• Better information on fleet (estimated time of arrival and departure, position, ERI messages)
• Increased reliability and visibility of IWT as an option for cargo transports

Success Factors:

• Easy integration into existing software
• Low prerequisites for use of system on user and customer end
• High demand for provided data, automation improved the consistency and usability of already available data
• ePort is perfectly scalable as a solution and benefits from the use of as many users as possible

Supported Strategic Targets:

Increased efficiency and productivity as well as an increased quality in logistics processes.

The main goal of ePort is to realise the operational, organizational and logistics benefits of having the cargo and vessel related data before entering a port as well as having the ETA of vessels, all provided by the RIS system.

Starting Point/Objectives/Motivation:

The aim was to foster the integration of IWT into intermodal transport chains. With the fast developing transport industry and the high standards set by consigners and consignees today a reliable and continuous transport flow is essential. Only through the integration and connection between available RIS data and management interfaces it is possible to increase the effectiveness of IWT to be used successfully within transport chains. This optimises the communication, efficiency and results in improving the door-to-door transport in planning and execution.

The ePort system in Vukovar is an evolution of the previously existing port management systems where data input was performed manually. All information used was based on what the port manager had available at the beginning of the order process. Data entry errors were possible. The further developed ePort system was then based upon user experiences and functionalities already existing in previous versions, considering upgrades and new streams of data accessible.

ePort was demonstrated at the port of Vukovar in 2012 in the framework of the EU project RISING. The port has terminals for bulk cargo, palletised or general cargo as well as a multipurpose terminal on an area of 26 hectares with an estimated 1.5 million tonnes transhipping capacity per year.
All available information can be used for port operation and transhipment planning, storage planning and optimal timing for slots and berths. Through optimal and up-to-date planning, waiting times can be reduced and storage facilities can be organized accordingly. The system is able to provide planning for incoming vessels for a specific future period and can calculate the expected time of departure.

ePort offers automated invoicing, statistics and record keeping. It has been in use since the demonstrator and has been developed further. In the DaHar (Danube Inland Harbour Development) Local Action Plan - Port of Vukovar ePort plays a core role and is planned to be further developed until 2016.

Seen in the scope of the application ePort is a remarkable solution adapted to the needs of IWT in Eastern Europe. With the integration of the Danube into the transport corridors a well monitored, planned and reliable IWT is essential. ePort can be seen as an innovation in relation to its field of use. The system is fully operational and has been successfully in use ever since the start of the demonstrator.

The use of ePort in Croatia makes a good case for innovation in the eastern EU countries and shows the benefit even smaller ports can generate from ITS in port and IWW operations in combination with RIS information. Other countries and ports could benefit as well.

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Transport mode and involved actors:

ePort focuses the Inland Waterway Transportation and aids in transhipment processes in bi- or tri-modal ports.

It was developed by CRUP, Inland Navigation Development Centre Ltd. (as case and software developer) in cooperation with the Port of Vukovar, Croatia, as the receiving port utilising ePort and EUSHIPPING, the transport service provider running vessels into Port of Vukovar.

The solution is perfectly scalable and can be implemented by as many ports, LSP or shippers as necessary. A centralised implementation on a national or European scale would benefit the ePort system as more data would be available for statistical evaluation and benchmarking.

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