

SKF: Transport Control System for the Schweinfurt plant



SKF is one of the world's leading producers of quality bearings, gaskets, mechatronic components, lubrication systems, and technical services. The range of services offered by the group comprises technical advice, a maintenance service, engineering services, and diverse training programs. SKF is represented in over 130 countries and distributes its products and services to more than 15,000 licensed dealers worldwide.

The used *PSI*ms software, the *PSI* Transport Management System, ensures that the company's own vehicles for supplying the production department with semi-finished parts, components, and plant units at the Schweinfurt facilities are accurately scheduled and monitored. The

Transport Control System (TCS) developed for the SKF service provider, Amthor Logistic GmbH, on the basis of *PSI*ms offers the highest possible level of flexibility and transparency available.

Solution components for the Transport Control System

The service provider Amthor Logistic, commissioned by SKF, has the task of organising all upcoming transport between the different transfer points at the SKF facilities so that everything arrives on time. The transport units are troughs, swapbodies, and pallet containers that must be loaded onto appropriate vehicles at the

PSI's logistics software ensures that SKF's vehicle runs are scheduled in a way that makes as good use of time as possible.

pickup point and unloaded at the destination.

Pending transports are entered as transport orders in the TCS. This can be done in the TCS client using a mobile data terminal (MDT) or a button installed at certain transfer points.

PSItns covers the whole process from the entry of orders to the confirmation that transports have taken place.

The transport orders are allocated to an appropriate vehicle using an automatic planning process, whereby the order in which the transports are dispatched is decided firstly by the predetermined order delivery time and secondly by an efficient routing system (minimisation of empty trips). New orders are allocated to existing trips in an adhoc, optimised manner. The routes calculated by the TCS can be adapted by authorized users using the several scheduling functions on offer.

The execution of scheduled transports is supported by TCS via telematics: This includes requesting orders, the loading of transport units at their origin, the unloading of transport units at their destination, and the completion of orders. The system triggers the reoptimisation of transport planning when there are clear delays. Transports that have already been planned are rescheduled when overdue, using another vehicle if necessary.

The execution of transports is monitored by the TCS. Users benefit from screens including an overview of current transports and a messages dialog.

During transport planning and execution all relevant key performance indicators are entered into the TCS. These are then used for statistical reports that allow the user to control transport processes at SKF.

Benefits of the TCS for SKF and its service provider

The introduction of the Transport Control System based on the PSItns gives SKF and its service provider Amthor Logistic a tool that:

- Enables the planning and implementation of internal transports using optimum routes and times
- Allows users to react flexibly to unanticipated situations
- Provides largely automated processes enabling freedom of movement for operative affairs
- Enables transparency throughout transport processes

The installed IT technology offers the user:

- A state-of-the-art IT platform based on an SOA architecture and Java technology
- A flexible software system through the use of standard components in the PSItns Transport Management System
- A scalable solution that can be extended to add new components if required

PSItns is future-proof, flexible software on a state-of-the-art, scalable SOA platform.

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