



For Leroy Merlin DDS Shipper follows more than 8 000 containers.

Improvements in productivity and ROI assured.

In order to improve and automate the management of its large import operation – south-east Asia/Europe – the group Leroy Merlin, French leader in the do-it-yourself and home improvement industries, with worldwide sales figure of 5.6 billion €, has called upon DDS Logistics and its software solution DDS Shipper. The project began in 2003 and was finished in 2004. In 2005 the entire import operation is managed by the new system.

Plagued by delays in billing and poor administration of its importation from south-east Asia, Leroy Merlin chose DDS Logistics to automate management.

“Our objective was to improve both traceability and importation, and to automate our procedures. Our old system needed too much new information input,” explains Nicolas Gachet, Logistics Organization Director for the group Leroy Merlin. “It didn’t offer enough visibility in terms of shipping follow-up.”

After an open-call in 2003, Leroy Merlin opted for DDS Shipper, the import supply operation management software solution.

“We were looking for a product accessible to our suppliers via Internet,” explains Nicolas Gachet, “that would allow us at all times to know the condition of our shipments coming from Asia to our 2 European ports, Anvers and Fos-sur-Mer, for stocking in our 2 international warehouses in Europe. Pro Shipper Supply answered all our needs. In fact thanks to its web portal our suppliers can inform the system on the progress of the shipments. The system upgrades in a multimodal environment since it also manages land transportation from our European suppliers. DDS Logistics is truly knowledgeable and its product is perfectly adapted to our needs.

Pilot the supply chain and manage finances

The solution has 9 logistic follow-up points allowing the tracing of containers and the piloting of the supply chain: real time loading, actual arrival date of the vessel, document follow-up, reception, transit documentation... Other than product follow-up, the system also permits financial management with pre-calculation of costs, and pre-billing. Interfaced with the accounting department, it allows the automatic control of billing from carriers by comparing the earlier estimates to the actual bill. The transportation department handles the differences, and accounting, automatically receive a payment order.

“We used to see important delays in this matter,” continues Nicolas Gachet, “Today we are up-to-date even though the number of containers has doubled between 2003 and 2004, reaching 8 370 EVP last year, all this without having to hire more personnel. Spread out like this, the improvements in productivity ensure a ROI in around 2 years.”

If you would like more information about DDS Logistics and its products, please call +33 (0)1 53 58 35 80 or write to ddsparis@ddslogistics.com.