SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGE? SOLVED!

6 Case Studies demonstrating how Logistics Plus is putting the “plus” in logistics.

1. Setting Up a Distribution & Fulfillment Center to Support the Growth of a Luxury Brands Retailer.

2. Interactive Data Model Helps Optimize Distribution for German Beer Company.


4. Custom TMS and Freight Management Solution Provides Industrial Distributor with Full Supply Chain Visibility.

5. Managing the Successful Delivery of Autoclaves and Work Tanks Using Multiple Modes of Transport.

6. Managing the Importing, Warehousing, and Delivery of over 100 million COVID Test Kits.
Setting Up a Distribution & Fulfillment Center to Support the Growth of a Luxury Brands Retailer

Logistics Plus harnesses the power of its 'yes' culture to help a fashion and luxury brands retailer open a Chicago distribution and fulfillment center to bring the brands it works with closer to a key market.

THE CHALLENGE

Logistics Plus (LP) is a leading worldwide provider of transportation, warehousing, fulfillment, global logistics, business intelligence, technology, and supply chain solutions. In 2020, a global luxury brand retailer approached LP with the challenge of rapidly deploying a distribution and fulfillment center near Chicago. It was a massive undertaking as the client needed this solution to be deployed within two weeks, and they had already begun shipping the products to their retail store, which was under construction and would not be ready for months. This project started in May 2020, just a few short months after the country had been shut down in March 2020 due to the global pandemic.

THE SOLUTION

True to its culture and roots, Logistics Plus said "Yes!" to the challenge and assembled a team to solve the challenges. Within one day, LP immediately acquired a large warehouse next to O'Hare airport to begin receiving the inventory. They leveraged every possible resource to create a pop-up fulfillment operation complete with high levels of security, staffing, and equipment needed to operate the center. Just four days after the client’s request, LP had a fulfillment center built and ready to begin receiving over 30,000 pairs of collectible and luxury brand sneakers, 100,000 luxury apparel items, and various items.

THE RESULTS

With LP’s quick deployment of resources and the acquisition of the facility, its client was able to successfully deploy a Midwest operation within two weeks, supporting their growth and solving a substantial short- and long-term problem. The fulfillment center began by processing 200 orders per day on its implementation day and has grown to capably manage up to 5,000 orders per day at its peak. Inventory levels now exceed 200,000 individual SKUs and items per day on average.

One of the obvious significant benefits to the client was the speed with which the project was executed. The challenges faced by the client were unforeseen and completely uncontrollable. The potential for highly significant business disruption was very real. LP’s rapid response and execution saved the client millions of dollars in lost revenue. Not many 3PLs on the planet would have been able to turn a solution for a project of this scope and size within two weeks, particularly given the need to acquire a warehouse, hire and train a staff, and implement WMS technology systems and security systems.

As a 21st century logistics company, LP was able to leverage its can-do culture, lean management structure, and network of resources to deliver a high quality and valuable solution for a terrific client.

To learn more:
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Supply Chain Challenge? SOLVED

Interactive Data Model Helps Optimize Distribution for German Beer Company

Logistics Plus® Business Intelligence solutions are designed with a user-centric approach. Logistics Plus provides clients with end-to-end supply chain visibility using interactive dashboards, predictive analytics, custom reporting, shipment tracking and tracing, freight invoicing, and global control tower capabilities.

THE CHALLENGE

Logistics Plus (LP) is a leading worldwide provider of transportation, warehousing, fulfillment, global logistics, business intelligence, technology, and supply chain solutions. In late 2022, a German beer company approached Logistics Plus with a unique challenge. The client had entered the U.S. market (in New England & Northern California) but had no defined strategy for which of their three major distributors supplied their retail locations with beer. This caused several unnecessary cross-country shipments that cost the client premium dollars.

THE SOLUTION

After reviewing the data, The Logistics Plus Business Intelligence (BI) team used the powerfully flexible LP Business Intelligence Platform to create an interactive data model which utilized four LP warehouses as distribution points and associated them with the closest retail locations. The data model can calculate both the time (in days) and distance (in miles or kilometers) of the original routes and compare them to the time, distance, and estimated costs (based on actual quotes from LTL Carriers) for the new proposed locations.

THE RESULTS

The Business Intelligence team found several obtainable savings and insights for this client's logistics group to implement. The savings included:

- 4.13% reduction in shipping charges.
- 36.11% reduction in Transit Days, meaning that products are in stores much quicker.
- 55.54% reduction in Total Miles traveled, closer distances can result in dramatic savings in fuel costs.

These process improvements that Logistics Plus found and implemented did not require any substantial changes on the client's part. The analysis was built and made accessible on the LP Business Intelligence platform and can be easily accessed 24 hours a day, from anywhere in the world.

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Supply Chain Challenge? SOLVED

Managing a Steam Turbine Air Charter Shipment for the Highest Capacity Biomass Power Plant in all of Europe.

Logistics Plus once again finds a way to ‘yes’ by managing a time-critical air charter of a steam turbine from a factory in Czech to a job site in Turkey.

THE CHALLENGE

Logistics Plus (LP) is a leading worldwide provider of transportation, warehousing, fulfillment, global logistics, business intelligence, technology, and supply chain solutions. In 2021, a Turkish investor procured a steam turbine from Siemens in the Czech Republic. Due to delays in manufacturing, the shipment was on hold and eventually became urgent once it was available. The client reached out to Logistics Plus directly with a firm delivery deadline in mind. Logistics Plus was tasked with transporting this 72,000 metric-ton turbine and accessories to meet the stringent deadline.

THE SOLUTION

After reviewing the project, the LP Project Cargo team quickly realized that an air charter would be necessary to meet the deadline. The Logistics Plus and Siemens engineering teams immediately worked together to comply with the airline’s technical requirements, including lifting, skidding, and lashing.

The project began with the inland trucking of the turbine from the factory to Brno airport. Once at the airport, Logistics Plus utilized unique crane and engineering services to load the turbine onto the AN124 air charter. After a secure and detailed loading process, the air charter departed the Brno airport to the Istanbul airport. Additional engineering services were required upon arrival to unload the turbine from the aircraft.

The turbine then cleared customs in Istanbul before final delivery and assembly at the job site in Karaman, Turkey.

THE RESULTS

Utilizing an air charter, Logistics Plus could complete the project in a matter of days. The first trucking portion of the project began on September 30th, and the final delivery was completed on October 2nd. Logistics Plus met all deadlines on this project with zero incidents and zero damage.

The client was extremely satisfied with the project and stated that they were ‘looking forward to continuing our business relationship.’

As a 21st-century logistics company, Logistics Plus leveraged its can-do culture, years of project cargo experience, and network of resources to successfully execute this project.

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Supply Chain Challenge? SOLVED

Custom TMS and Freight Management Solution Provides Industrial Distributor with Full Supply Chain Visibility

The Logistics Plus® MyLogisticsPlus™ cloud-based portal is customized to provide a direct interface with the client’s WMS for its parcel, freight, and international order and shipping processing. The Logistics Plus Freight audit and payment solution offer the client complete invoice visibility with business intelligence reporting.

THE CHALLENGE

Logistics Plus (LP) is a leading worldwide provider of transportation, warehousing, fulfillment, global logistics, business intelligence, technology, and supply chain solutions. In early 2021, a global industrial distributor that serves leading manufacturers administered an RFP to find a third-party logistics (3PL) provider that could help it optimize outbound multi-modal shipping from its six warehouses, improve inbound vendor routing compliance, and provide a complete picture of its supply chain invoices to reduce costs.

THE SOLUTION

After an extensive review process, the client selected Logistics Plus for its impressive, customizable technology capabilities, complete, multi-modal transportation management expertise, and overall cultural fit. The designated LP solutions team immediately began working with the client to understand its general needs through a series of meetings and site visits. Working with the client’s in-house development staff, the LP technology team developed and implemented a custom-built version of its cloud-based MyLogisticsPlus™ portal. This custom TMS would allow the client’s warehouse personnel to instantly scan and weigh both parcel and freight orders, select the optimal carriers based on cost or customer routing preference, and print all related documentation. LP’s international team worked with the client to assign proper HTS codes for all its imported and exported goods and create more efficient international shipping standard operating procedures (SOPs). Additionally, LP created an operational routing center to help the client’s vendors cost-effectively route shipments moving inbound to its facilities. Lastly, LP implemented its FAS (freight audit solutions) process and technology to facilitate contract and rate management, file carrier disputes, and provide critical business intelligence across all modes of the client’s entire supply chain.

THE RESULTS

Now, with the ability to place greater focus on its core business, with less diversion of resources on transportation and logistics, the client continues to enjoy record year-over-year sales and profitability results. Using business intelligence derived from invoice aggregation through the freight audit and payment process, LP has also successfully renegotiated contracts with critical carriers to provide the client with more affordable shipping options for both parcel and LTL freight modes.

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Supply Chain Challenge? SOLVED

Managing the Successful Delivery of Autoclaves and Work Tanks Using Multiple Modes of Transport

Logistics Plus once again finds a way to ‘yes’ by managing the transportation, delivery, and installation of two autoclaves and work tanks from Houston to Little Rock.

THE CHALLENGE

Logistics Plus (LP) is a leading worldwide provider of transportation, warehousing, fulfillment, global logistics, business intelligence, technology, and supply chain solutions. In early 2022, the LP Project Cargo team was tasked with transporting two autoclaves and work tanks from a barge in Houston to the client’s job site in Little Rock. The autoclaves each weighed 227,000 lbs. with shipping dimensions of (mm) 51,000 L x 4,080 W x 3,765 H. The work tanks each weighed 123,000 lbs. with shipping dimensions of (mm) 50,500 L x 3,500 W x 3,427 H.

THE SOLUTION

The LP Project Cargo team quickly assembled a team of engineers, project cargo managers, and partners to plan out and execute every step of this challenging, oversized move. The team began using 3-D modeling software and step-by-step plan sheets for accuracy. The large autoclaves could only be lifted by designated support points approximately 140 feet apart and had to be fully supported when they were not being lifted. This required using a barge transport to ensure they were flat and fully supported, as trucking or rail solutions would not have been able to accomplish this for the safety of the cargo.

Once at the destination barge terminal, Logistics Plus sourced a lift utilizing an LTM1750 900-ton crane at maximum safety-rated capacity using a custom engineered and fabricated spreader bar of 140 feet. The barge terminal dock also had to be engineered to ensure its structural integrity to simultaneously support the massive crane and equipment. Specific steel and timber mats were required to be installed at specific structural locations on the dock to comply with the engineering requirements for a safe operation.

At the final delivery site, Logistics Plus utilized a system of SPMT and dollies to position the autoclaves inside the building. The LP team used an overhead gantry for final placement and installation.

THE RESULTS

By utilizing multiple transportation methods, lifting, and rigging, Logistics Plus delivered the client’s cargo safely and effectively with extremely challenging handling conditions. Ultimately, the autoclaves and work tanks were delivered and installed with zero incidents and zero damage.

As a 21st-century logistics company, Logistics Plus leveraged its can-do culture, years of project cargo experience, and network of resources to successfully execute this project.

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Supply Chain Challenge? SOLVED

Managing the Importing, Warehousing, and Delivery of over 100 million COVID Test Kits

Logistics Plus harnesses the power of its ‘yes’ culture to help a top supplier in the medical device industry pull off a miracle-like roll-out of critical COVID test kits for the Biden Administration.

THE CHALLENGE

Logistics Plus (LP) is a leading worldwide provider of transportation, warehousing, fulfillment, global logistics, business intelligence, technology, and supply chain solutions. In 2020 and early 2021, Logistics Plus leveraged its global network to source, warehouse, and deliver millions of PPE supplies around the world. Based on that expertise, in late December 2021, a top supplier in the medical device industry approached LP with the challenge of rapidly importing, warehousing, and distributing a massive order of COVID test kits for the Biden Administration. One caveat to the project was that the first chartered airplanes were already in flight and enroute to the United States. At the time, most LP warehouses in the U.S. were already filled with other clients’ freight due to supply chain issues associated with COVID.

THE SOLUTION

In typical Logistics Plus fashion, management said ‘yes’ to the project and quickly assembled a team to work through the challenges. Within one day, LP immediately acquired a large warehouse next to O’Hare airport to begin receiving the freight. LP leveraged every possible resource to staff the warehouse, including many from its corporate office who received a crash course in warehouse operations and forklift certification. TSA drivers went on-site to pick up the freight planeside and bring the PMC air cargo pallets to our warehouse. LP hired emergency masons to modify the warehouse dock doors so that they were wide enough to receive the large PMC cargo’ cookie sheets.’ Once they were unloaded at its warehouse, the team broke down the cookie sheets, sorting each carton by SKU and lot number. The received items were scanned into its warehouse management system (WMS) and tracked by lot number and other attributes to ensure regulatory compliance. The cartons were grouped, palletized, and shrink-wrapped on standard 48x40 pallets in preparation for outbound distribution. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) were established to support each specific customer. For example, certain retail customers required CHEP pallets, while government clients required special placarding and labeling. Customer orders dropped to the LP WMS daily, and most freight spent less than 24 hours at the facility. Eventually, additional SKUs would be re-allocated to southern California for west coast distribution and ongoing order fulfillment.

THE RESULTS

So far, Logistics Plus has successfully transported over 100 million Covid test kits to dozens of retail and government clients across the United States. One of the key benefits of the project was the speed of implementation. Not many logistics companies in the world can turn a project of this scope and size within 48-hours having no available warehouse capacity or extra labor. As a 21st-century logistics company, Logistics Plus was able to leverage its can-do culture, lean management structure, and network of resources to successfully execute this project. More than 75 existing employees and over 50 more new employees – many who remain with the company today – we’re utilized on the project.

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