

American Port Services

Third-Party Logistics Provider Increases Production by 25 Percent With Solutions From HighJump Software

Company Profile—APS

American Port Services (APS) is a Savannah, Ga.-based third-party logistics provider. APS provides its clients with a variety of supply chain and logistics-related services, including solutions for transportation management, distribution center space optimization, yard management, cross-docking, export-packing and fleet management—all guided by world-class computer systems. Customers include major retailers, manufacturers and shippers across a variety of industries that rely on APS as a sole-source logistics solution provider.

Challenge

APS manages more than four million square feet of warehouse space. In order to provide industry-leading solutions to better meet the unique requirements of its diverse customer base and provide fast, measurable ROI, the company recognized that it needed to migrate from its older fulfillment system to a robust, highly advanced supply chain execution technology solution.

Increasing visibility on a supply chain-wide basis was a key decision factor. In addition to a solution with robust, standard functionality, APS needed a solution with a high level of system configurability to meet the unique warehousing and distribution requests of new and existing customers.



“APS provides logistics services for hundreds of companies varying from those with a few small freights to those with large distribution

centers shipping half a million cases each day,” said George Powers, President of APS. “We required a system with the depth and breadth of functionality to meet this wide range of customer needs as well as adapt quickly and cost-effectively to our ever-changing customer and business demands.”

Solution

After evaluating several vendors, APS selected HighJump Software, a 3M company, in Eden Prairie, Minn., to provide the supply chain execution solutions it needed to optimize both warehouse and yard operations at key facilities. The HighJump™ Warehouse Advantage warehouse management system (WMS) empowers APS to boost overall productivity and efficiency, raise inventory accuracy to 99+ percent, and dramatically improve the customer service it provides with on-time shipments.



APS leverages the HighJump Yard Advantage yard management system to schedule inbound and outbound shipments identify cross-docking opportunities, and manage activities for all types of truckload and less-than-truckload carriers, including its private fleet.

With the HighJump solutions, APS quickly moved from error-prone, paper-based procedures to streamlined processes driven by highly accurate radio frequency (RF) communication which employees receive on hand-held devices. This communication directs and verifies work in the warehouse and yard in real time, dramatically improving the speed and accuracy of all activities.

Throughout warehouse and yard operations, APS can now access real-time visibility to key inventory, order and performance metrics through the HighJump management visibility solution.

Results

“APS reduced labor costs by 10 percent and increased overall productivity by 25 percent only six weeks after the implementation of the HighJump solutions,” Powers said. APS can now meet a variety of picking and inventory handling requirements for its diverse customer base and retrieve data from remote locations. As a result of the dramatic improvements in efficiency and accuracy, APS has won several new customer accounts—including a leading multi-national retailer processing hundreds of thousands of cases per day.

“From the well-planned and flawlessly executed implementation process to the advanced work execution we now achieve, the HighJump solutions have had a dramatic impact at APS,” Powers said. “The resulting increase in quality has substantially reduced our overall cost of doing business and impressed our customers.”

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-George Powers, president



Another key benefit APS has achieved with its HighJump solutions is its overall responsiveness to customer demands—whether those demands come from existing customers or from potential customers evaluating APS’ ability to react quickly to unique circumstances. This is critical to its success as a long-term player in the 3PL market.

HighJump’s trademark adaptable architecture facilitates this process with ease of system configuration. Because no custom code is required to configure HighJump solutions, APS can utilize in-house resources to react quickly to accommodate the requirements of its customers—without the extended timeframes and costs involved with code-level modifications.

Future Plans

APS plans to grow in two directions over the coming years. The first will be into other parts of the country in order to provide its customers with broader support for their operations. Besides continuing to support its existing customer base, APS’ growth into other regions will allow it to provide its world-class services to new customers.

The second area of growth will be into new market opportunities by offering additional services to current and future customers. APS will leverage its HighJump solutions to expand its business to customers and grow its market presence in the world of logistics.

