

Press Release

TALKE Logistic Services invests in IT infrastructure

Benefits in the handling of dangerous goods, transport management and supply chain collaboration

Huerth, July 2005. ALFRED TALKE GmbH & Co. KG, Huerth, Germany, has redesigned and further developed its IT infrastructure. The chemical logistics service provider's different hardware and software modules now easily integrate into practically any IT environment of its customers. Furthermore, they ensure transparency as well as the quality and safety of all operational procedures. TALKE has invested more than 1.5 million Euro into its IT program in the past year alone.

Above-average performance in service, quality and safety has ever since belonged to the strategic targets of TALKE Logistic Services, one of the leading suppliers of transportation and logistics solutions for the chemical industry. To meet these requirements, the family-owned company puts a strong emphasis on the training of its employees as well as on the quality of the equipment in use.

TALKE Logistic Services recently has finished the installation of GPS/GSM telematics systems for the entire vehicle fleet (own and partner vehicles). The fleet consists of more than 1,000 tank trucks and containers. Moreover, all vehicles of the joint venture company HOYER-TALKE, specialists in Europe-wide dry bulk transports, have been equipped with GPS/GSM telematics systems.

Integrated into TALKE Transport Management System (TMS), all telematic data are displayed on a new graphical transport planning surface, which makes it easy to effectively plan the tours. Moreover, it ensures that all transportation and shipment data, including transport status updates and other information, e.g. on the temperature of products, are fully transparent and available to the customer. Last but not least, TMS, customers can submit electronic orders and receive an electronic invoice if desired.

The heart of the TALKE software solutions is "ATOS", Alfred Talke Operations System. The majority of the enterprise's operational processes are controlled by ATOS, based on SAP ERP: from finance to controlling, from sales and distribution to the warehouse and material management and production planning. Currently five locations make use of all of ATOS's modules. Next year, all 13 of TALKE's logistics centres will be fully equipped and will work on the basis of the same standardised processes. In doing so, TALKE manages to provide to customers the same level of quality at all of its locations in Europe.

Another new element within the TALKE IT-solutions is the SAP EHS module (Environment, Health & Safety). Among other things, EHS contains a material data

base with more than 1,500 entries. All information are regularly checked, updated and modified to meet existing laws' and regulations' demands. Therefore, TALKE offers the highest possible quality and safety on the area of dangerous goods warehousing and management.

Two redundant data centres at the head office of the enterprise in Huerth, 600 meters apart from each other, provide highest possible reliability of all critical applications. TALKE Logistic Services runs XI Xchange infrastructure by SAP, and therefore the logistics service provider can offer practically any customer integration via SAP Idoc, XML, EDI or www formats.

By implementing this new IT infrastructure, TALKE can offer real added value to its customers. The level of integration is up to the customer. Numerous enterprises of the chemical industry already benefit from integrating TALKE in their supply chain. In some cases the logistics service provider has established own branch offices, directly on the area of its customers' production plants.

TALKE Logistic Services, headquartered in Huerth near Cologne, Germany, offers bulk and dry bulk transportation, logistics solutions such as warehousing, packaging and handling, engineering and construction of entire logistics facilities as well as technical services, e. g. tank cleaning and repair services.

The Logistic Solutions business unit is specialised on planning and construction of logistic facilities.

The company, now run by the second and third generation of the family, is committed to become the preferred supplier of logistic solutions for the European chemical industry. This aim shall be reached by geographical expansion, exploration of new business fields and investments, mainly in the training of employees, IT competence and logistic infrastructure.

TALKE employs more than 700 people on 13 locations in Europe and the Gulf States, and reaches revenues of 150 million Euros per year.

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