





# THE FIRST CLASS LOGISTICS HUB





# WORKSHOP 10.1 – PI HUBS AND NETWORKS

- **OPTIMAL ORDERING AND TRANSPORTING OF INVENTORY IN SMALL PI-NETWORK**  
Gerlach Van der Heide (University of Groningen)
- **SIMULATION-BASED ASSESSMENT OF HYPERCONNECTED DISTRIBUTION CENTER CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS AND SERVICE CAPABILITIES**  
Nayeon Kim (Georgia University of Technology)
- **A SIMULATION-BASED STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF COMPETITION ON THE OPERATIONS OF HYPERCONNECTED CROSSDOCKING HUBS**  
Shannon Buckley (Georgia University of Technology)
- **TOWARDS HYPERCONNECTED PI-HUBS – LINKING SUPPLY CHAIN OPERATIONS**  
Tomasz Dowgielewicz (MARLO Poland)

# Optimal ordering and transporting of inventory in small PI-networks

Gerlach van der Heide

I.F.A. Vis, K.J. Roodbergen, P. Buijs

IPIC 2017

- Towards Virtual Ports in a Physical Internet



- Physical Internet + Internet of Things
- Track items during transportation
- Up-to-date inventory information
- **Dynamic routing** of items in transit

## Situation:

- One company
- A given network of warehouses
- Dynamic routing allowed
- Storage possible at all warehouses



## Situation:

- One company
- A given network of warehouses
- Dynamic routing allowed
- Storage possible at all warehouses

## Research goals:

- Optimize decisions for orders and shipments
- Analyze network flows
- Compare with static routing
- Study impact of missing edges

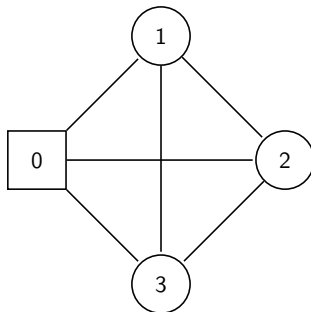


Figure: Part of the PI-network used by the company

- Orders arrive at node 0
- Random demand at nodes 1, 2, and 3
- When and how much to order? How much to ship over each edge?

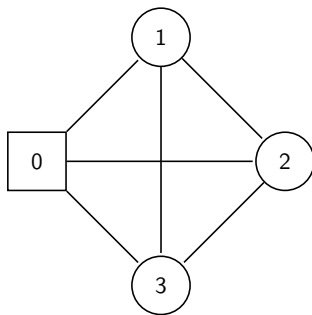
- Periodic decisions
- Order of events:
  - ① Incoming orders and shipments arrive
  - ② New order and shipment decisions are taken
  - ③ Random demand arrives
  - ④ Inventory costs are incurred

- Periodic decisions
- Order of events:
  - ① Incoming orders and shipments arrive
  - ② New order and shipment decisions are taken
  - ③ Random demand arrives
  - ④ Inventory costs are incurred
- Assumptions:
  - Shipments and orders take **one period**
  - Always transport available
  - No batching/capacities
  - Time-homogeneous costs and demand distributions



- Identical cost parameters at each node.
- Customer behavior: **backorders** or **lost sales**
- Parameters:
  - **Holding** cost  $h$  per unit per period (also for stock in transit)
  - **Shipment** cost  $c$  per unit
  - **Order** cost  $K$  per order
  - **Backorder** cost  $b$  per unit per period
  - **Lost sales** cost  $\ell$  per unit

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  - **Order** cost  $K$  per order
  - **Backorder** cost  $b$  per unit per period
  - **Lost sales** cost  $\ell$  per unit
- Determine order and shipment decisions with **minimal long-run average costs** per period
- Solve Markov Decision process



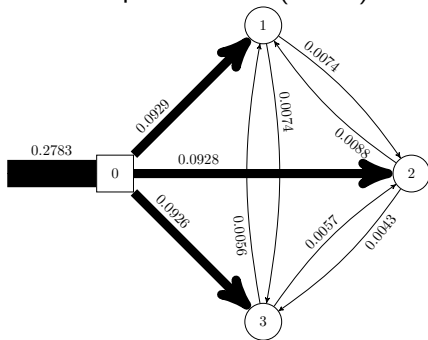
- We vary:
  - **Shipment costs:**  $c = 0$  or  $c = 5$
  - **Demand variability:** low or high
  - **Customer behavior:** lost sales or backorders
- Other parameters:  $h = 1$ ,  $K = 50$ ,  $b = 20$ ,  $\ell = 60$
- Average demand at nodes 1, 2, and 3: 0.1

- Situation: lost sales and low demand variability



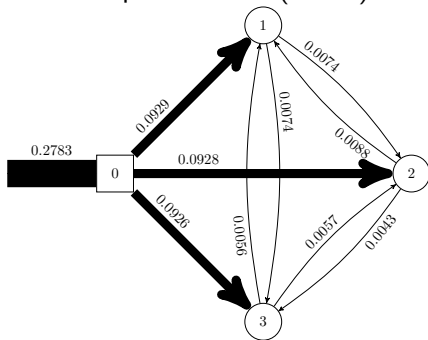
- Situation: lost sales and low demand variability

Positive shipment costs ( $c = 5$ )

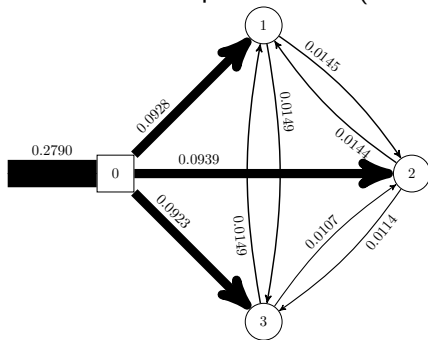


- Situation: lost sales and low demand variability

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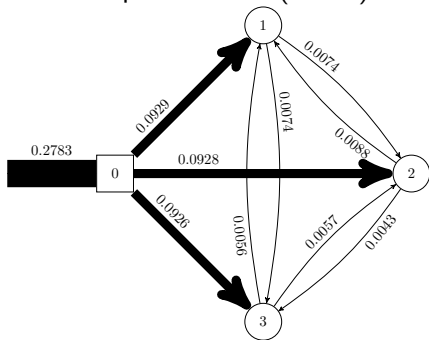


No shipment costs ( $c = 0$ )

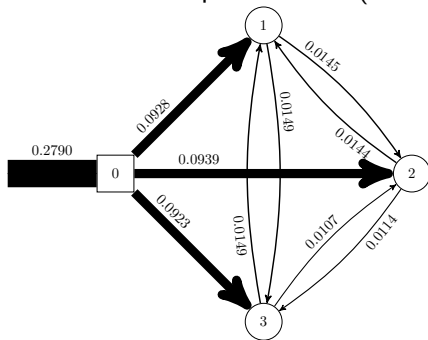


- Situation: lost sales and low demand variability

Positive shipment costs ( $c = 5$ )



No shipment costs ( $c = 0$ )



- Total flow for  $c = 0$  is **13% higher**
- Indirect edges are used **106% more**

- Static routing: select end-nodes when placing order
- How much better is dynamic routing?

Table: Cost reduction of dynamic routing

	Lost sales	
	$c = 0$	$c = 5$
Low variability	14.69%	10.27%
High variability	8.57%	4.71%



- Static routing: select end-nodes when placing order
- How much better is dynamic routing?

Table: Cost reduction of dynamic routing

	Backorders	
	$c = 0$	$c = 5$
Low variability	17.31%	12.47%
High variability	15.91%	10.06%

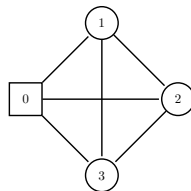
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Table: Cost reduction of dynamic routing

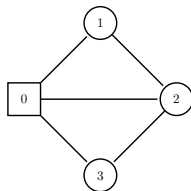
	Backorders	
	$c = 0$	$c = 5$
Low variability	17.31%	12.47%
High variability	15.91%	10.06%

- Significant cost savings from dynamic routing!
- Remark: dynamic routing has larger flows

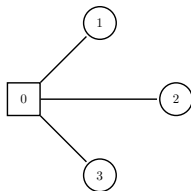
- What is the cost of **missing edges**?
- Compare with other graphs:



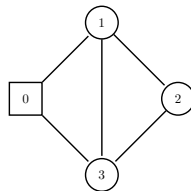
Complete graph



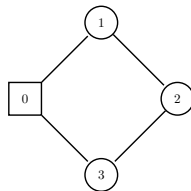
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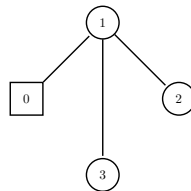
A2



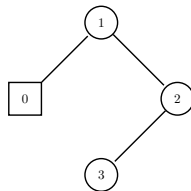
B1



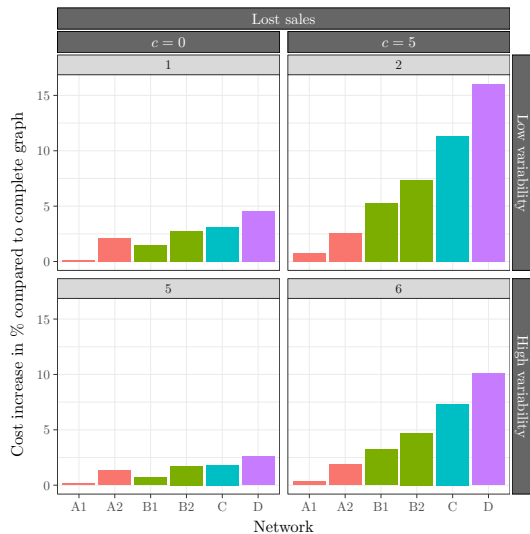
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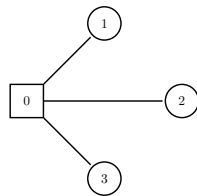
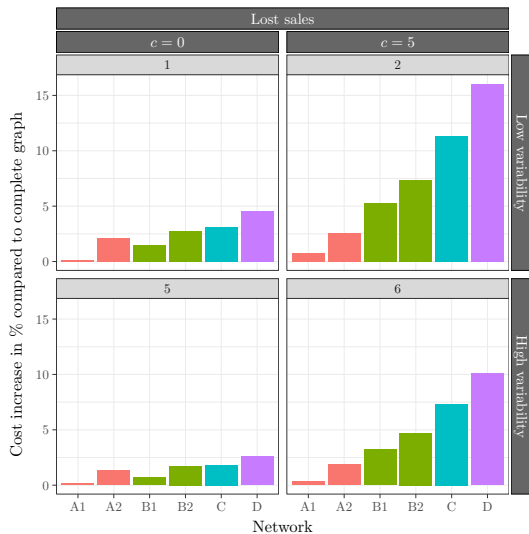
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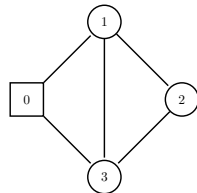
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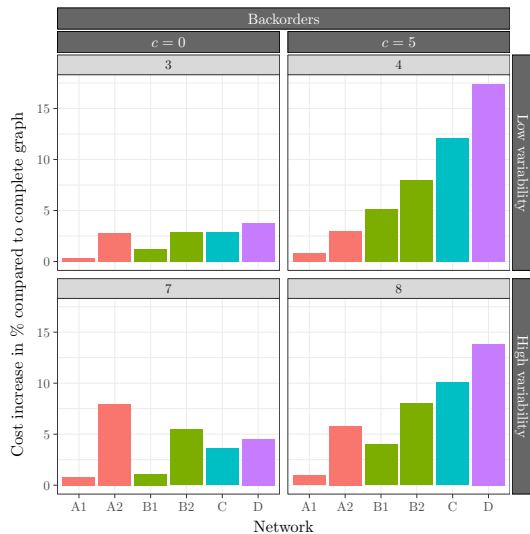


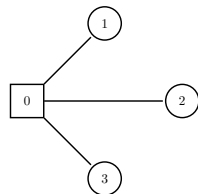
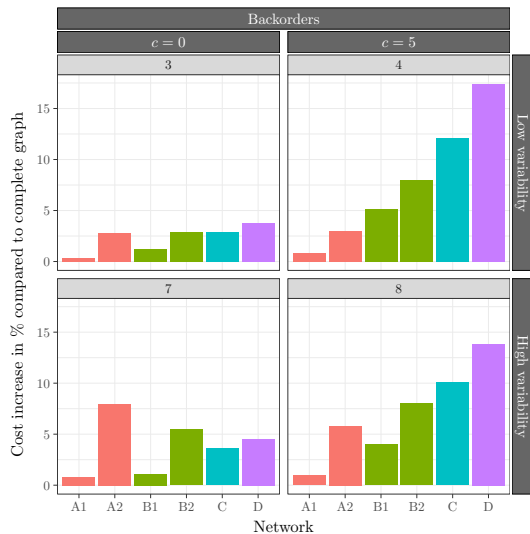


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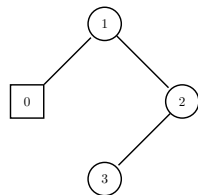


B1





A2



D

- Mostly distance first, then flexibility (more edges)
- With backorders:
  - Considerably different ranking with low shipment costs and high demand variability
  - Flexibility much more important than distance
  - Two-echelon-like network can be worst of all!

- Dynamic routing leads to significant costs savings over static routing
- Low shipment costs increase usage of indirect edges
- Customer behavior has substantial impact on effectiveness of networks with missing edges
- Optimal behavior must be accounted for in network design, pricing mechanisms, etc.

# Simulation-based Assessment of Hyperconnected Mixing Center Capacity Requirements and Service Capabilities

*4th International Physical Internet Conference  
6/Jul/2017*

**Nayeon Kim**<sup>1,2</sup> & **Benoit Montreuil**<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

1. H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology
2. Physical Internet Center
3. Supply Chain & Logistics Institute
4. Coca-Cola Chair in Material Handling and Distribution

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# Openly Shared Distribution

- ES3 in York, PA



- Fulfillment by Amazon
  - 100+ fulfillment centers in North America



- Flexe.com
  - Hyperconnected on-demand warehousing platform

A screenshot of the Flexe.com website interface. The top navigation bar includes "FLEXE" and links for "SOLUTIONS", "RESOURCES", "COMPANY", "SUPPORT", "Sign In", "FIND SPACE", and "LIST SPACE". Below the navigation, there's a "Best Available" dropdown menu. The main content area displays a warehouse listing for Austell, GA, with a distance of 10.4 miles. The listing includes a thumbnail of a pallet, a yellow ribbon icon, and a table of costs and storage methods. The table shows a labor cost of \$7.80 per pallet and a storage cost of \$5.81 per pallet per month. Storage methods listed are "Double Stacked" and "Floor Loaded". To the right of the listing is a map of the Atlanta area with several blue location pins.

# Hyperconnected Mixing Center (HMC)

- Definition of mixing center by comparison to warehouses and distribution centers:

	Warehouse	Mixing Center	Distribution Center
Storage Type	Deep extended storage	Short term flow storage	Short term flow storage
User Type	Manufacturers, Retailers	Manufacturers	Retailers, Distributors

- Comparison of three types of mixing centers (MCs)

	Dedicated MC	Collaborative MC	Hyperconnected MC
Users	Single Manufacturer	Exclusive group of partnered manufacturers	Open on demand to any manufacturer

- Extreme variants of hyperconnected mixing center (HMC)
  - Spot HMC and Steady HMC

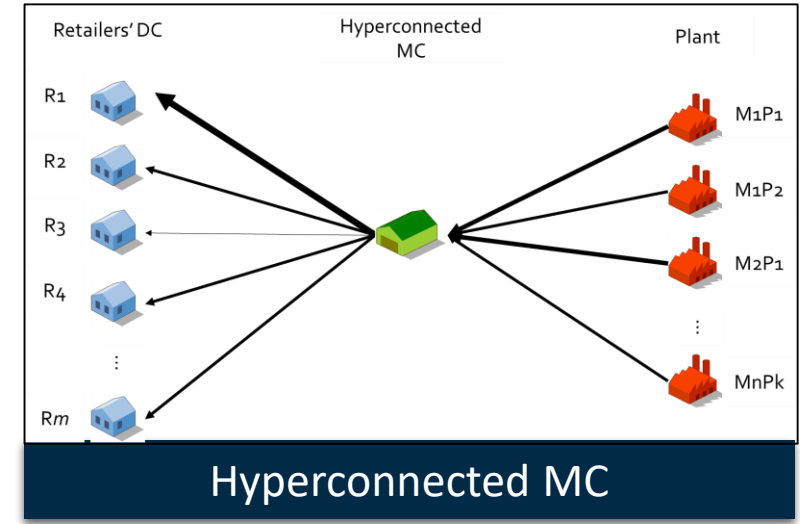
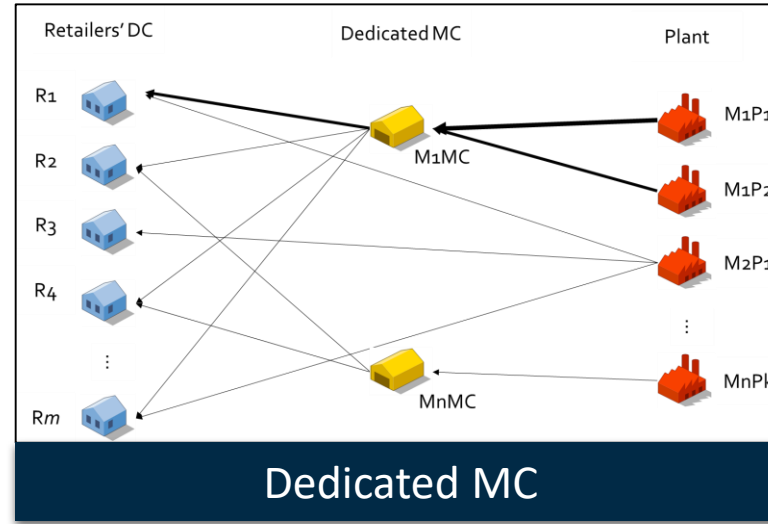
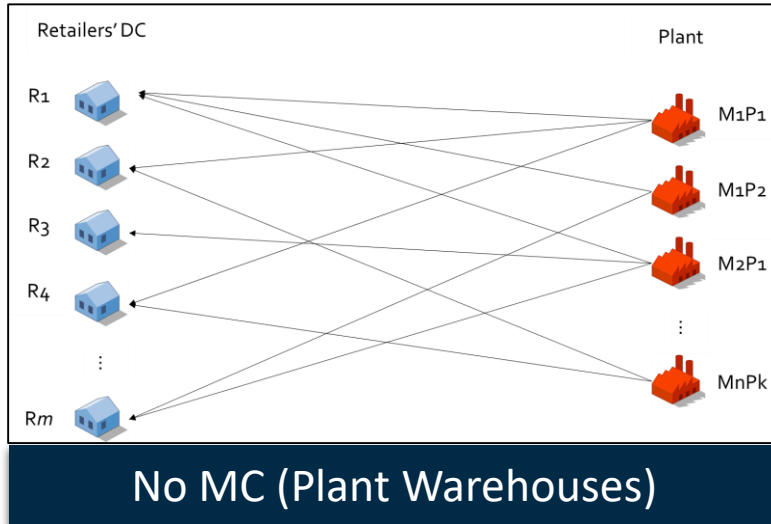


# Key Players

- Key Players:
  - Manufacturers
  - Retailers
  - Carriers
  - Logistics service provider(LSP)
  
- Hyperconnected MC can be operated by manufacturer(s) or LSP

# Alternative Operation Scenarios and KPIs

## Alternative operation scenarios



- No capital investment
- Long lead time
- Low consolidation

- Large capital investment
- Short lead time
- Better consolidation

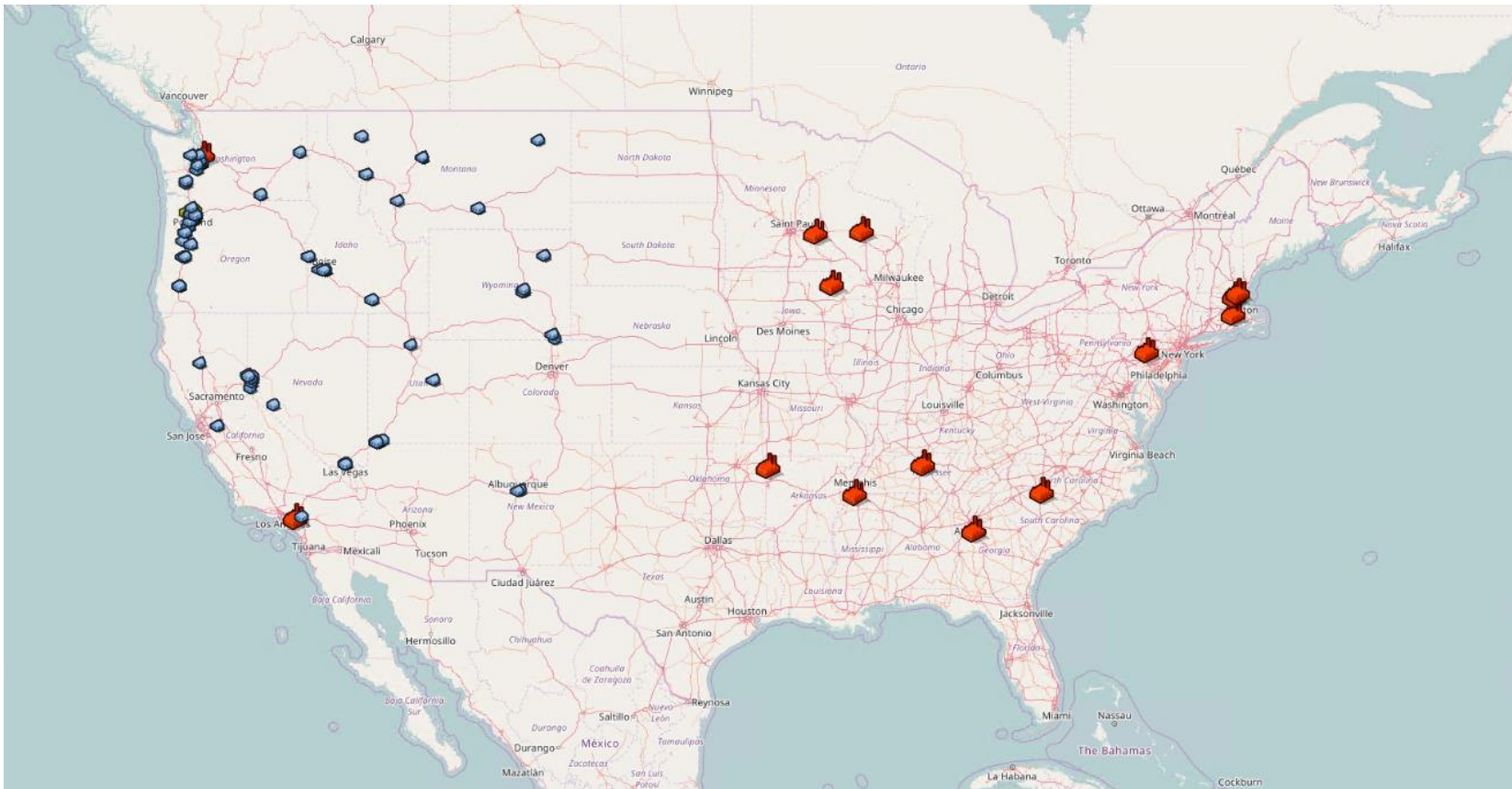
- Low/no capital investment
- Short lead time
  - Travel miles reduction
- High consolidation

## Key performance indices (KPIs)

- E.g. Induced travel miles, inventory requirements (average, variability, peak), service level (delivery frequency)

# Case Description

- Implementing a new steady hyperconnected MC serving U.S. western states operated by a logistics service provider
- Potential clients of the HMC are consumer goods manufacturers



# Operation and Experimental Scenarios

- Operation Scenarios:
  - No MC, Dedicated MC, and Hyperconnected MC
- Experimental Scenarios:

<b>Scenario ID</b>	<b># of Clients at MC (# Manufacturers)</b>	<b>Average Annual Throughput (M pallets/year)</b>	<b># of distinct outbound destinations (Customer DCs)</b>
<b>1</b>	2	~2.8	139
<b>2</b>	5	~2.8	173
<b>3</b>	8	~2.8	180
<b>4</b>	12	~5.8	194
<b>5</b>	8	~3.4	195
<b>6</b>	13	~1.0	172

# Capacity Requirements

- Hyperconnected MC can reduce required storage capacity of manufacturers compared to No MC or Dedicated MC operation mode
  - Compare capacity requirements of dedicated facilities to responsible capacity in HMC
- The size of reduction can differ by client configuration of HMC

Scenario ID	Annual Throughput /# Clients (M pallets)	Capacity Requirement (K Pallets)	Average Capacity Requirement Reduction		0.99 percentile of OHI (K Pallets)
			From No MC to Hyperconnected	From Dedicated to Hyperconnected	
1	~2.8 / 2	200	0%	2%	185
2	~2.8 / 5	232	0%	0%	217
3	~2.8 / 8	241	5%	6%	222
4	~5.8 / 12	440	6%	7%	408
5	~3.4 / 8	281	13%	14%	259
6	~1.0 / 13	103	16%	16%	94

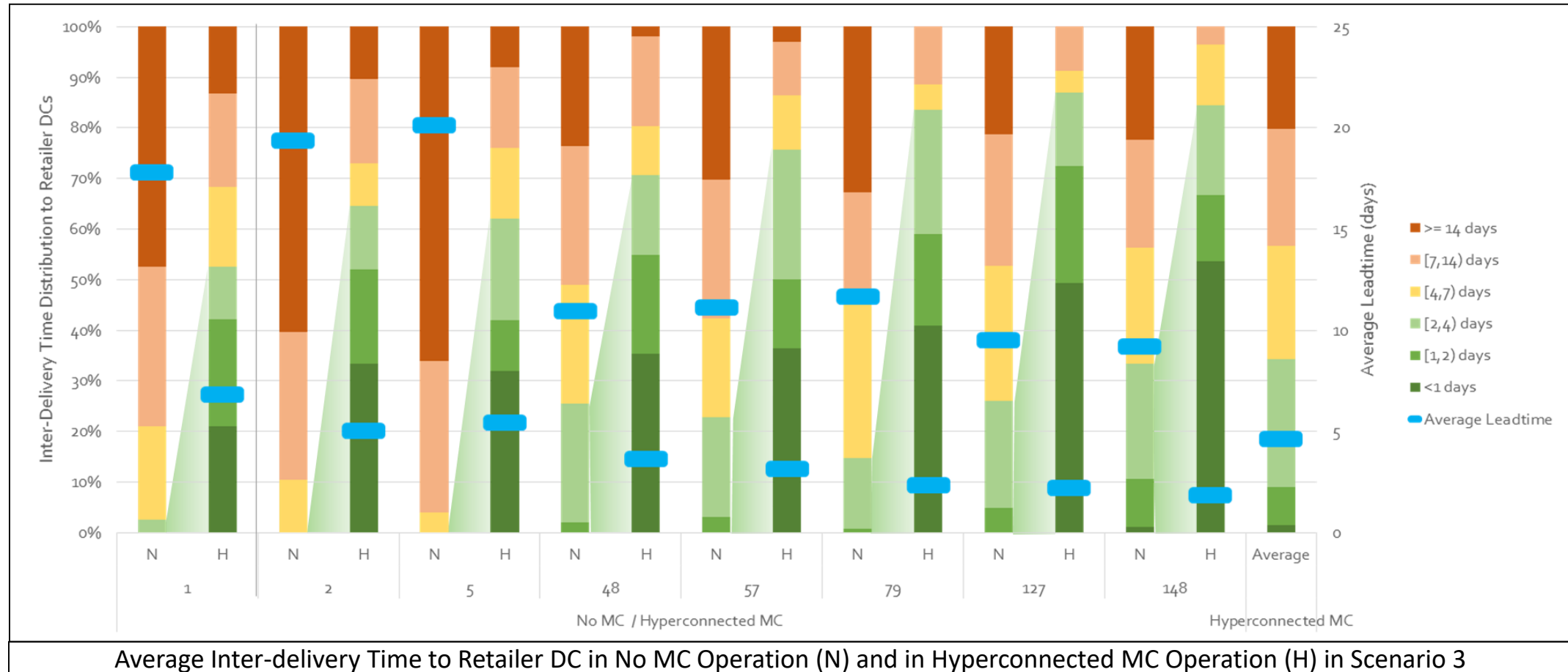
# Average Inter-delivery Time

- HMC can significantly reduce average inter-delivery time to retail DCs by consolidating multi-retailer shipments to same destination without increasing outbound travel distances

Scenario ID	Consolidation Index	Average Inter-Delivery Time in Days and Marginal Reduction					Average Marginal Reduction in Outbound Travel Distances		
		No MC	Dedicated MC		Hyper MC		No MC	From No MC to Dedicated MC	From Dedicated MC to Hyper MC
1	1.4	8.8	2.6	71%	2.1	18%	-	67%	1%
2	1.8	6.4	6.4	0%	3.4	46%	-	0%	59%
3	2.6	13.7	11.4	17%	4.7	59%	-	27%	40%
4	3.8	11.1	9.1	18%	2.3	75%	-	24%	39%
5	3.1	12.6	11.4	9%	4.3	62%	-	18%	51%
6	2.2	16.1	14.9	7%	9.7	35%	-	19%	55%

# Average Inter-delivery Time

- Large manufacturers can also improve their service level



Average Inter-delivery Time to Retailer DC in No MC Operation (N) and in Hyperconnected MC Operation (H) in Scenario 3

# Inventory Operation at Customer(Retail) DCs

- Inventory operation at customer DCs can be improved by increased delivery frequency with HMC
- Capacity requirements and inventory variation are reduced

Scenario ID	Reduction in 0.99 Percentile OHI at Customer DC		Reduction in Inventory Variation (COV*) at Customer DC	
	No MC to Hyper MC	Dedicated MC to Hyper MC	No MC to Hyper MC	Dedicated MC To Hyper MC
1	16%	0%	62%	27%
2	15%	15%	46%	46%
3	10%	3%	69%	59%
4	10%	5%	76%	71%
5	9%	6%	70%	68%
6	6%	3%	52%	49%

\*COV: Coefficient of Variation (Standard Deviation / Mean)



# Summary

- Simulation-based methodology to understand and assess the impact of hyperconnected storage and distribution through a hyperconnected MC is proposed
- Potential advantages of a steady HMC are shown
  - Storage capacity requirements can be reduced
  - Delivery frequency can be increased, even for large manufacturers
  - Outbound travel miles can be reduced
  - Inventory operation at customer DCs can be improved
- Potential disadvantages of a steady HMC are shown
  - Loss of autonomy and self-control
  - Issue with fair multi-client coordination, prioritization, and pricing
  - Margins shared with logistics service provider

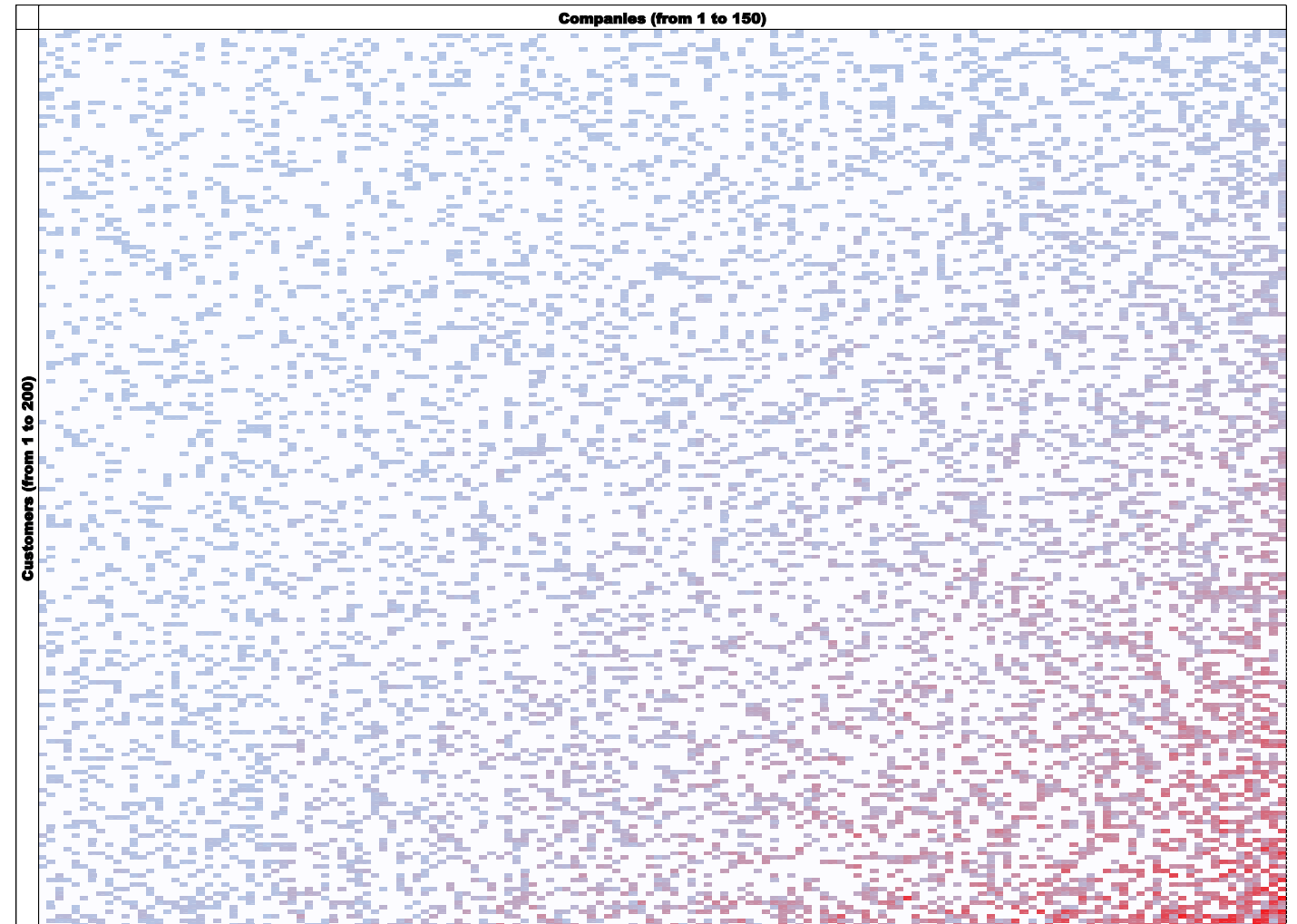
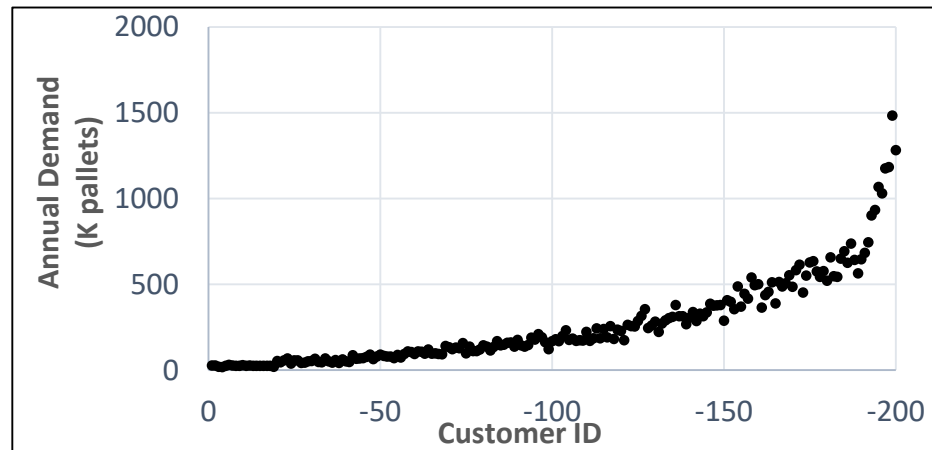
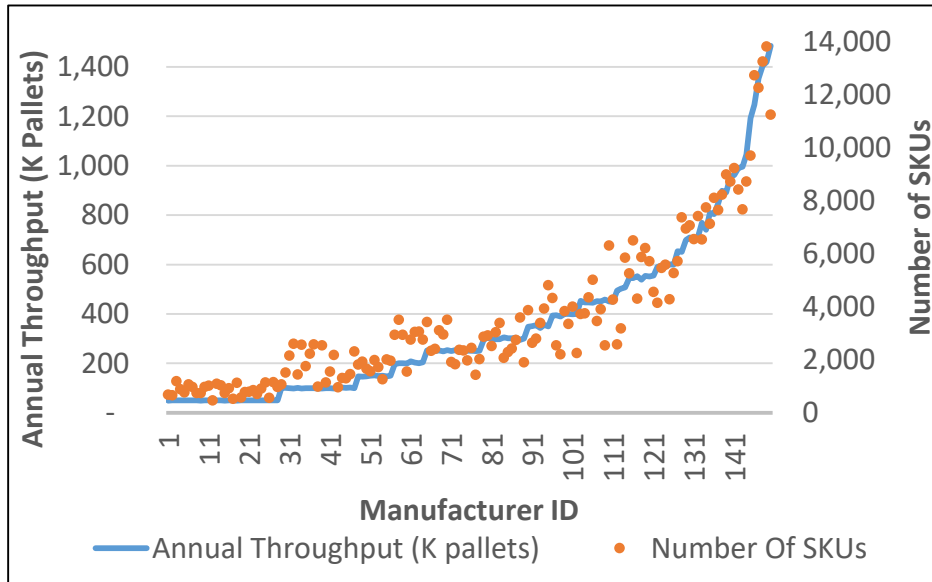
# Limitations and Future Research

- To be addressed:
  - Coordination cost to handle the complexity and dynamics of HMC
  - Pricing mechanisms for HMC services
  - Long term, multi-year evolution of the clientele of HMCs
  - Multi-HMCs case
  - Competition between HMCs
  - Operation of spot HMCs
  - Integration of HMC and HDC

Thank you  
Q&A

# Appendix: Key Players-Manufacturers and Retailers

- 150 manufacturers and 200 retailer DCs in the scope



# The Effect of Competition on the Operations of Hyperconnected Crossdocking Hubs

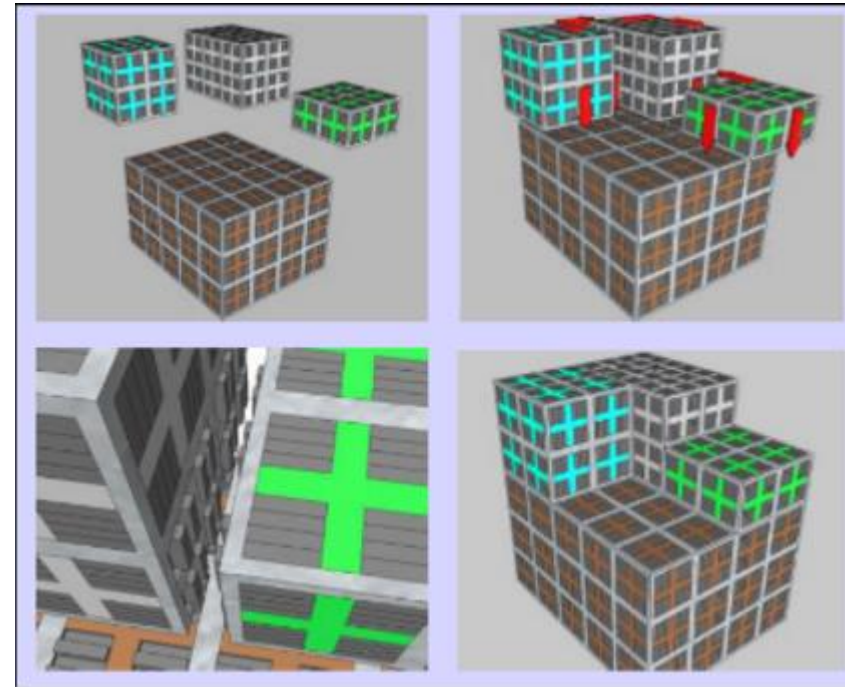
By Shannon Buckley, Benoit Montreuil, Zachary Montreuil



# Outline

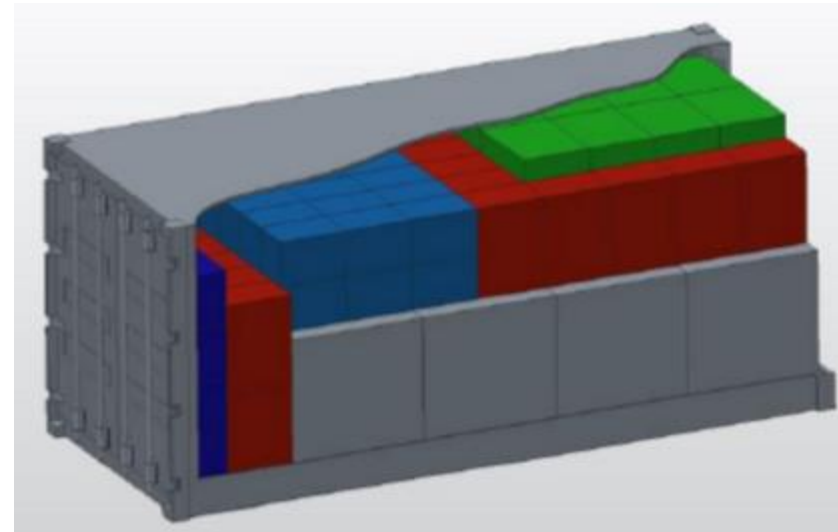
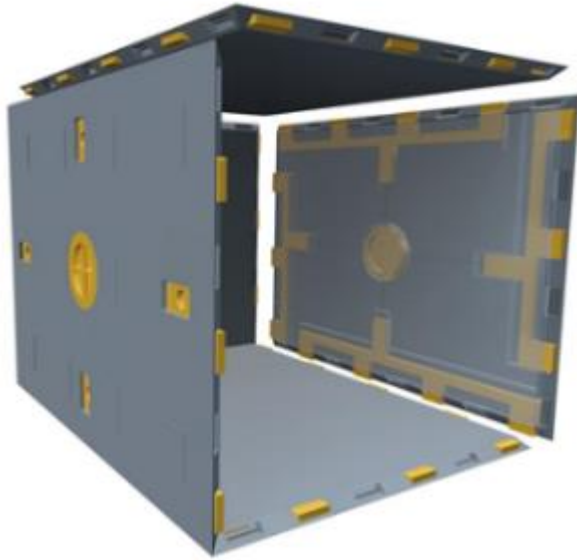
- **Background Information**
- **Our Objective**
- **The Main Players**
- **Peri-Urban Hyperconnected Hub Topologies**
- **Simulation Design**
- **Results**
- **Further Avenues for Research**

# Modular Containers



Montreuil, B., Ballot, E., Tremblay, W. (2015). Modular Design of Physical Internet Transport, Handling and Packaging Containers, Progress in Material Handling Research, v13, MHI, Charlotte, USA.

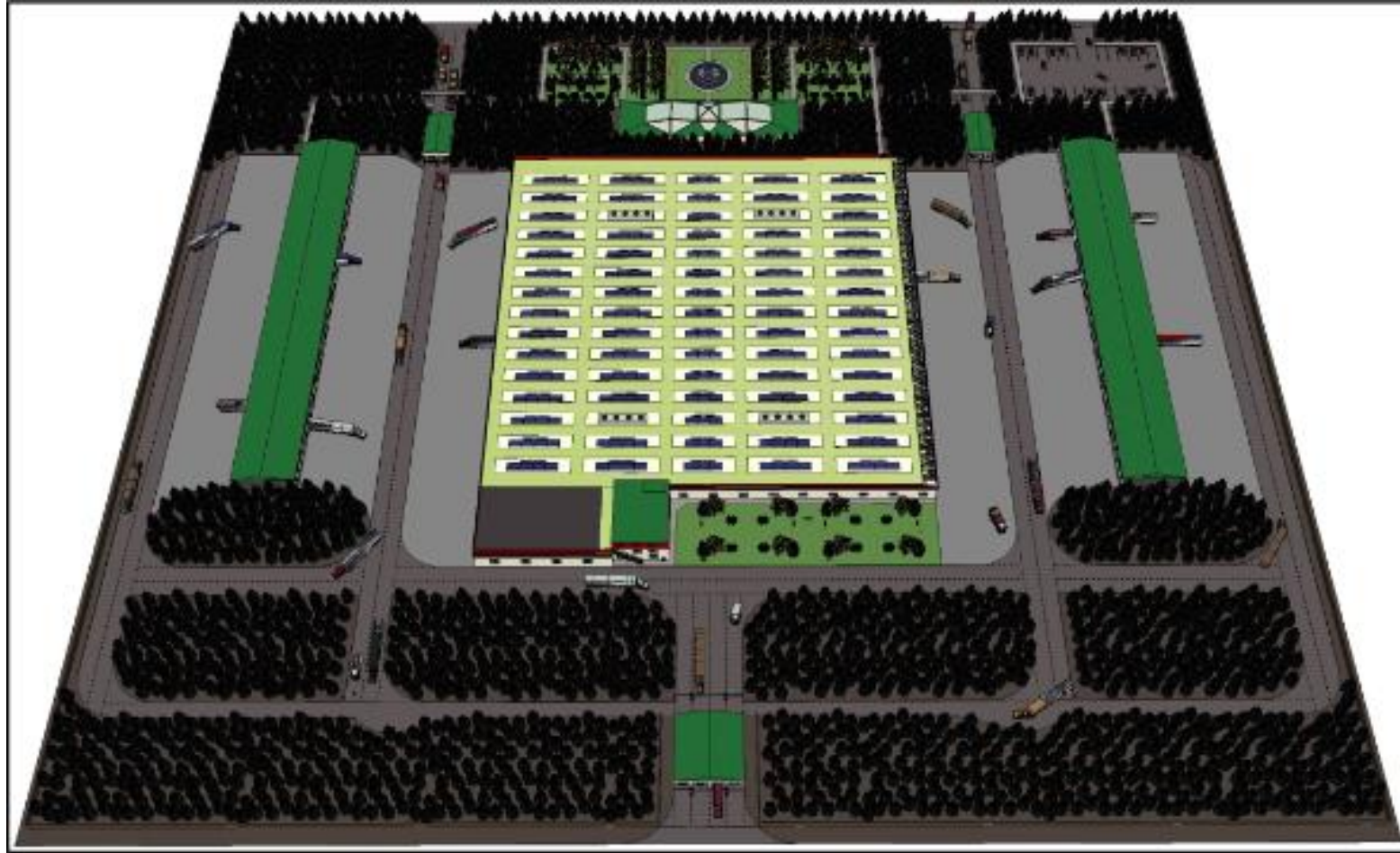
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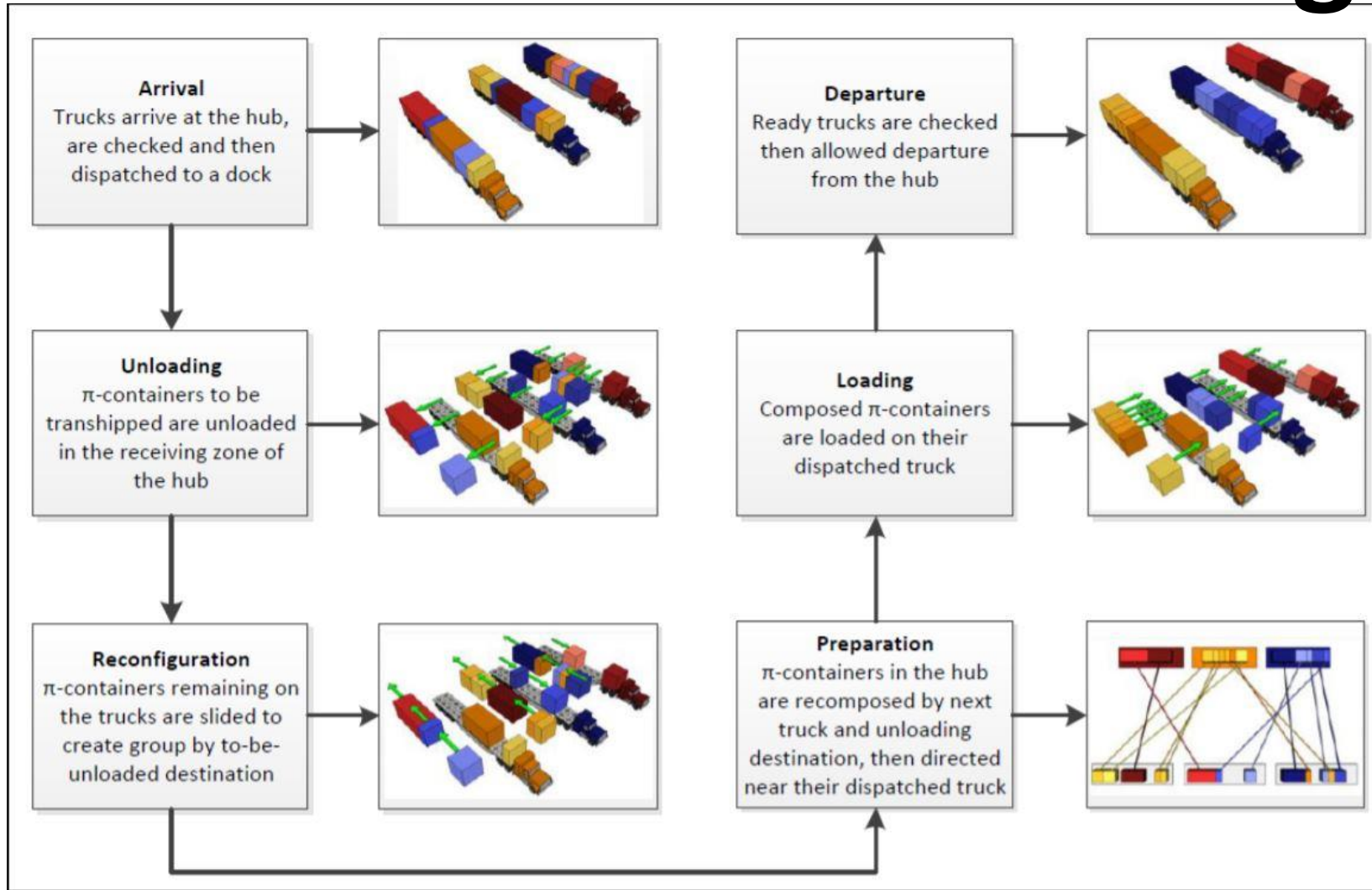


# Hyperconnected Crossdocking Hub



Ballot, E., Montreuil, B., Thivierge, C., and Montreuil, Z., "Functional Design of Physical Internet Facilities: A Road-Based Crossdocking hub," *Progress in Material Handling Research*: 2012, Material Handling Institute, Charlotte, NC, USA (2012).

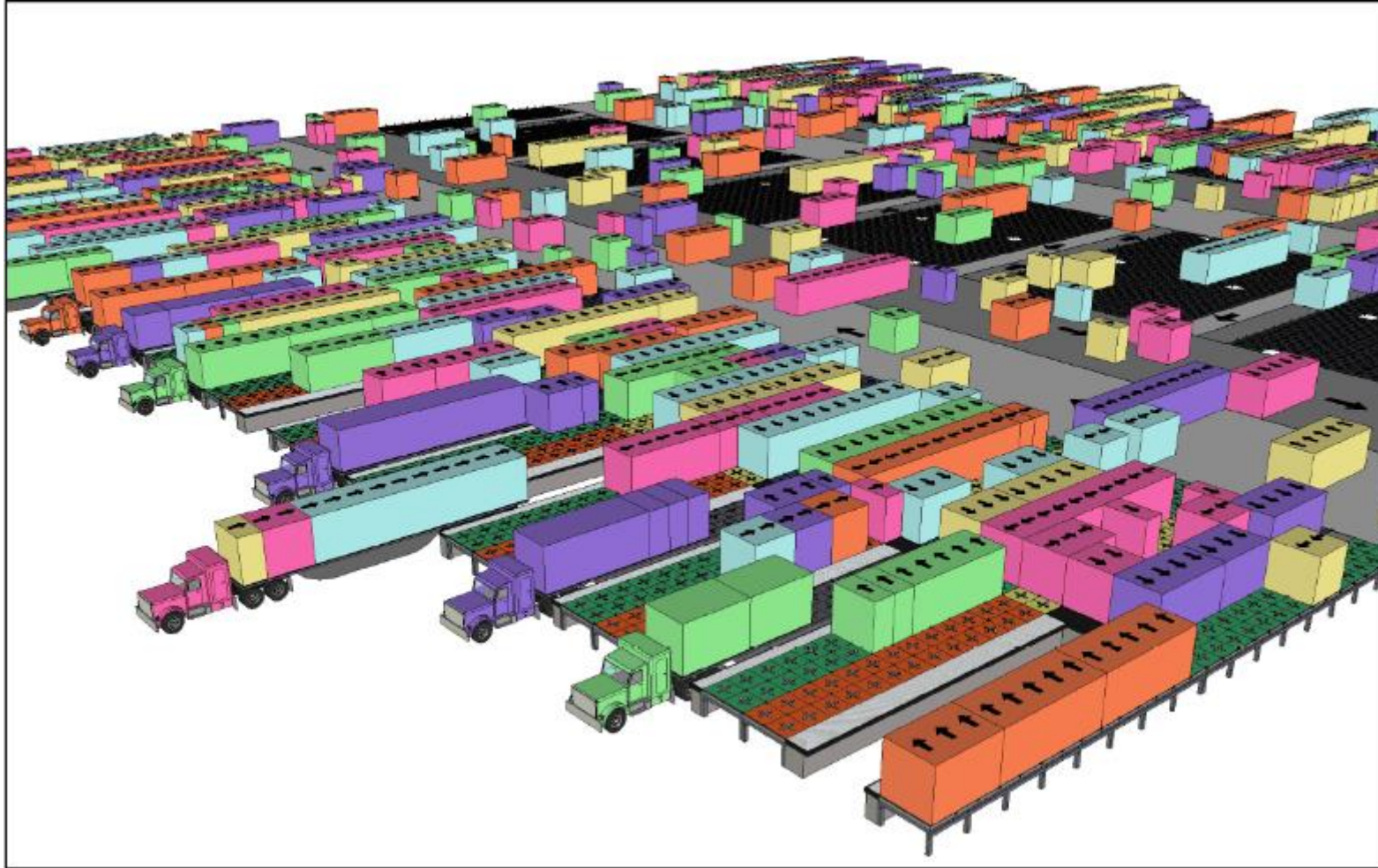
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# Hyperconnected Crossdocking Hub



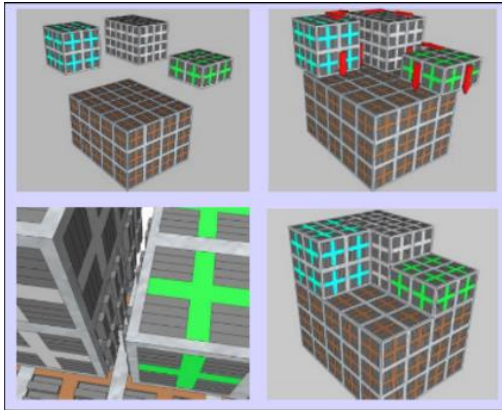
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# Our Objective

- **Examine the ways in which multiple hubs within the same region will interact with each other and the other main players in the Physical Internet**

# Main Players

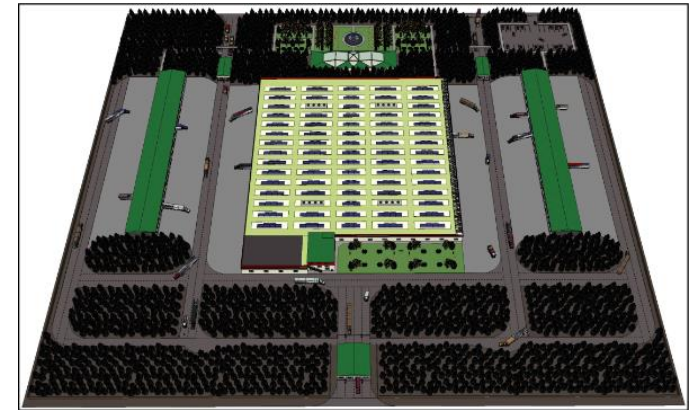
Shippers



Truckers

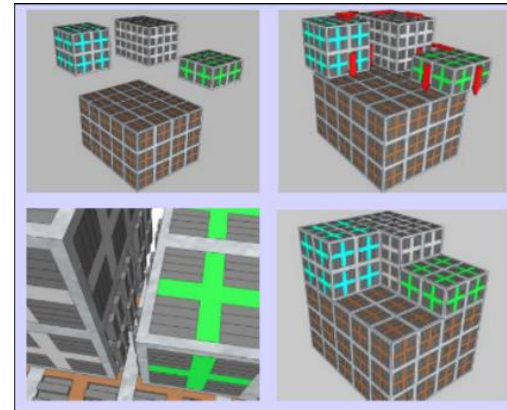


Hub Operators



# Shippers

- Large source of demand for PI Hubs
- Send PI containers
- Objectives:
  - Make sure shipment is delivered
  - Make sure shipment is delivered on time



# Truckers

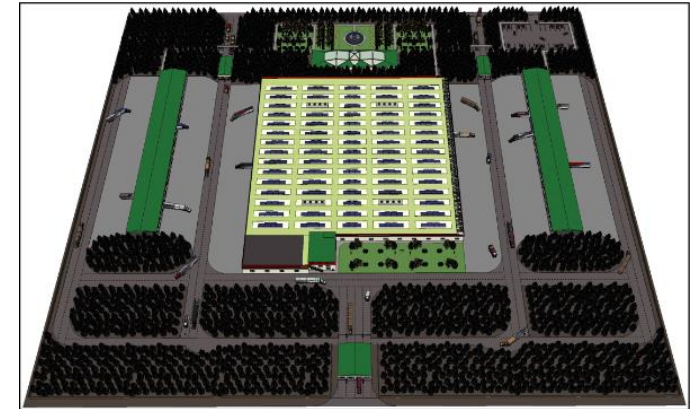
- The transport providers
- Operate independently
- PI certified
- Objectives:
  - Make money
  - Maintain quality of life





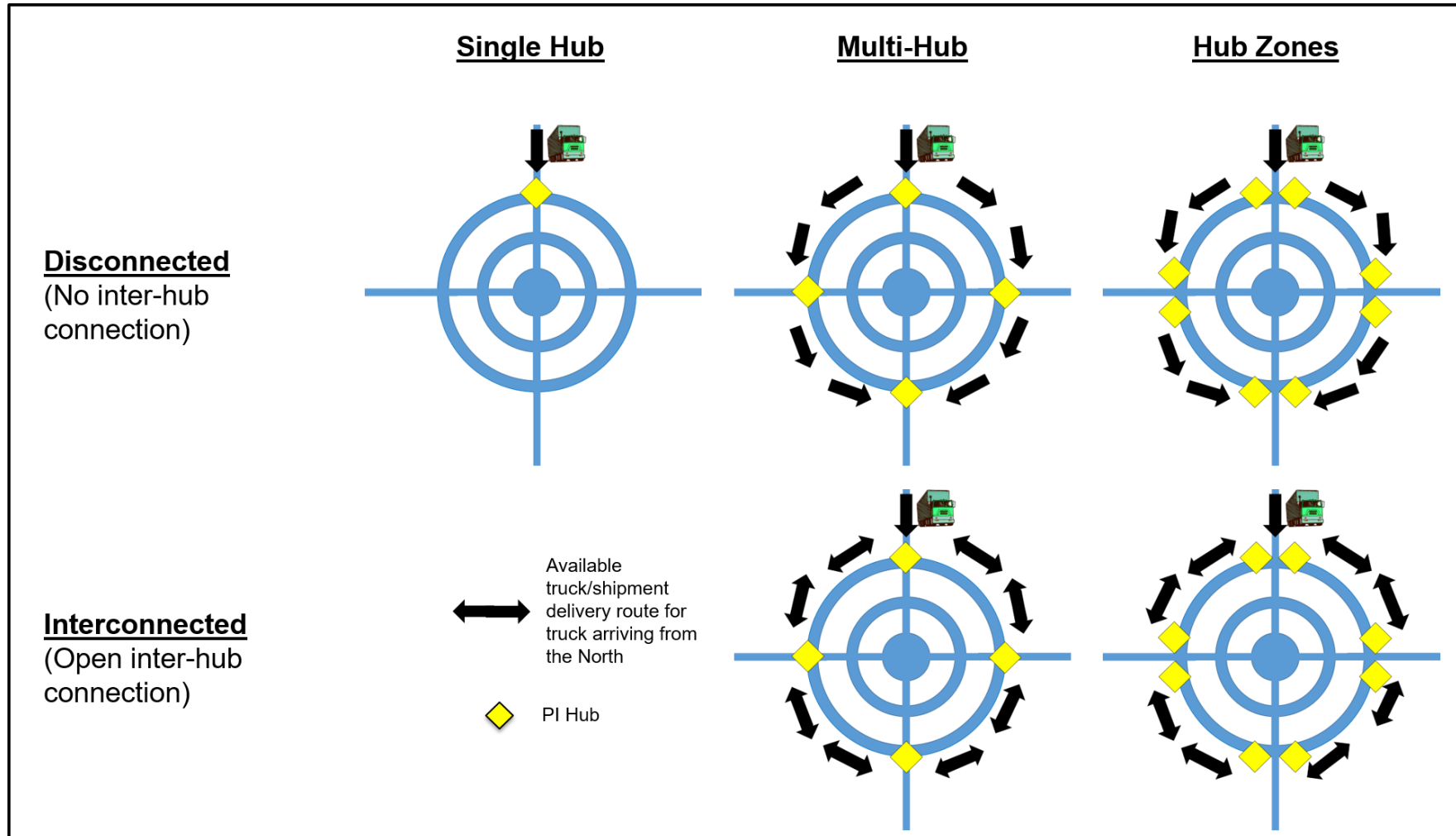
# Hub Operators

- Control the flow of goods through PI Hubs
- PI certified
- Manage hub like managing a business
- Objective:
  - Make money





# Peri-Urban Hub Topologies



# Conclusion

- **Key Learnings:**

- In “low-flow” scenario, operate under single-hub topology
- In “high-flow” scenario, single-hub topology had shorter truck and shipment waiting times
- In “high-flow” scenario, interconnected hubs made for longer waiting times

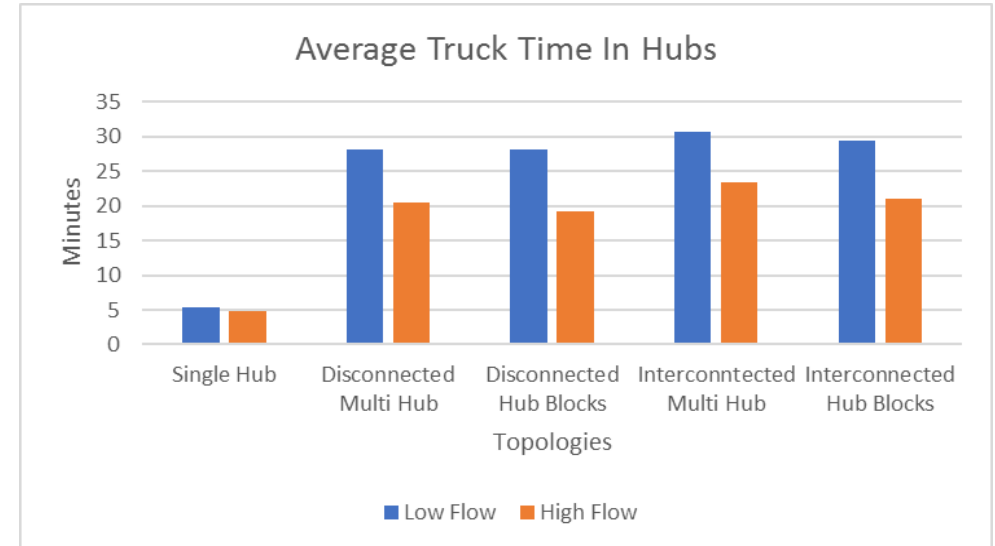
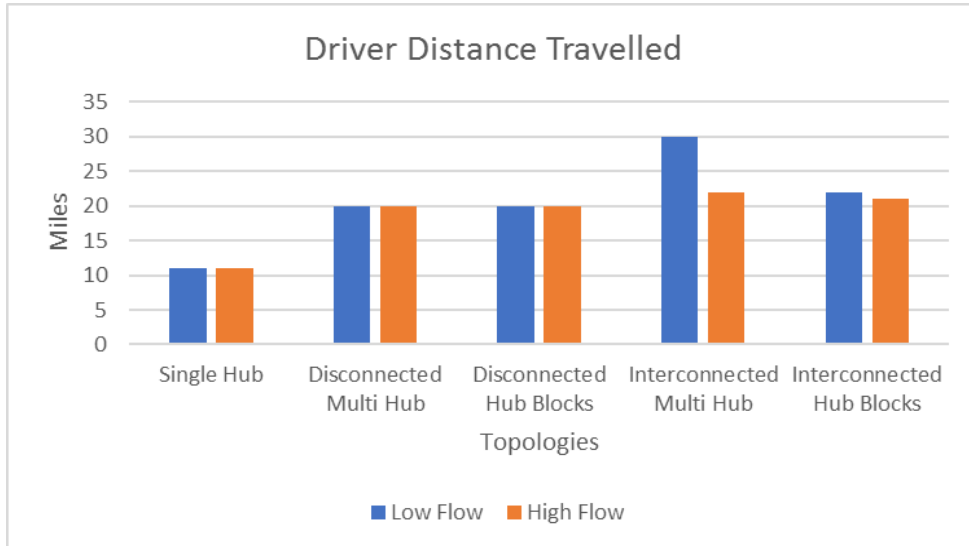
- **Key Limitations:**

- No hub capacity limits
- No shipment expedition if waiting time was too long

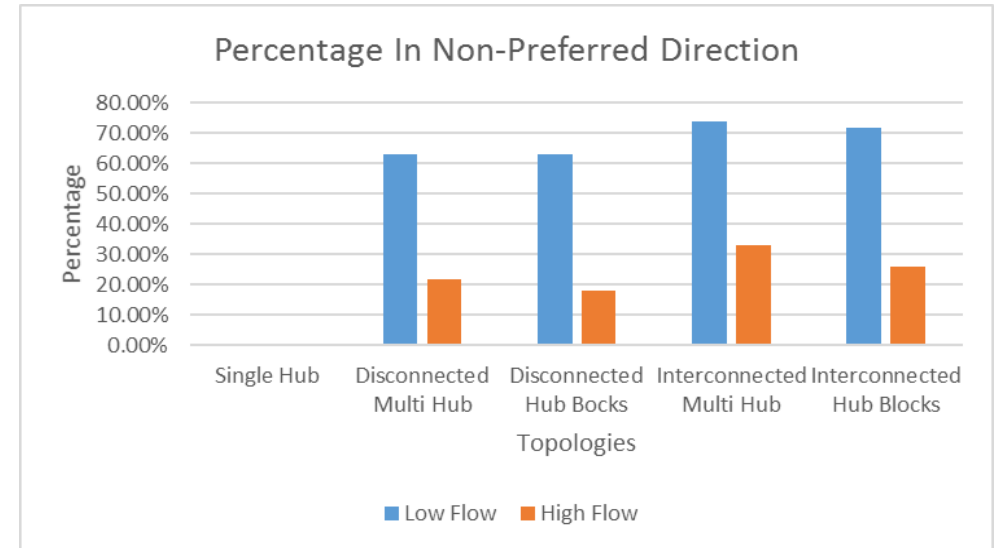
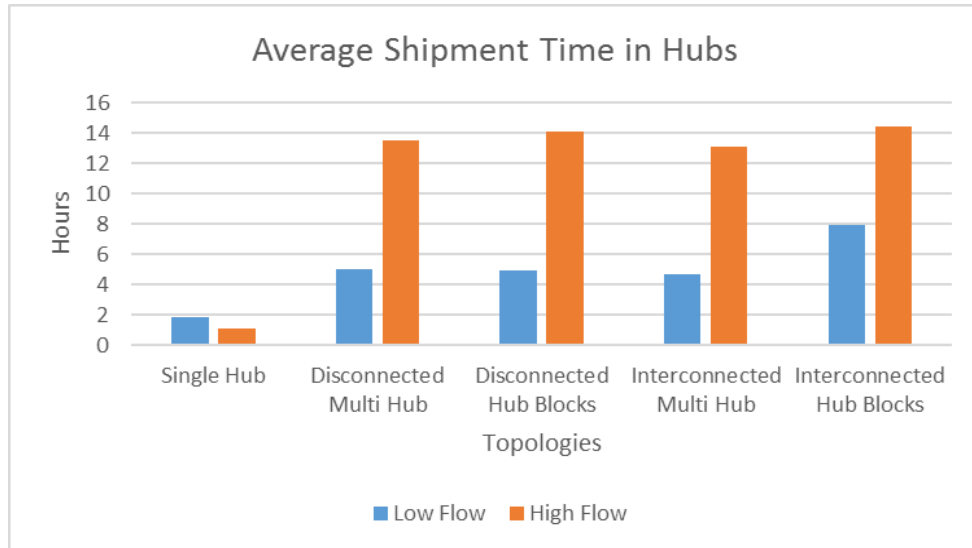
# Future Research Avenues

- **Add capacity limits to hubs**
- **Analyze the effect of pricing on shipper's decisions**
- **Examine scenario with collaborative hubs**

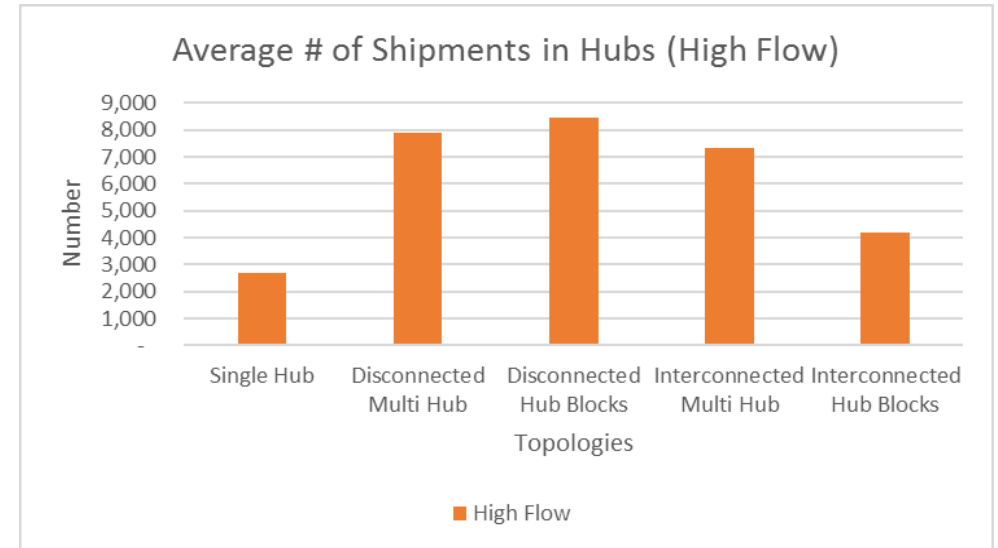
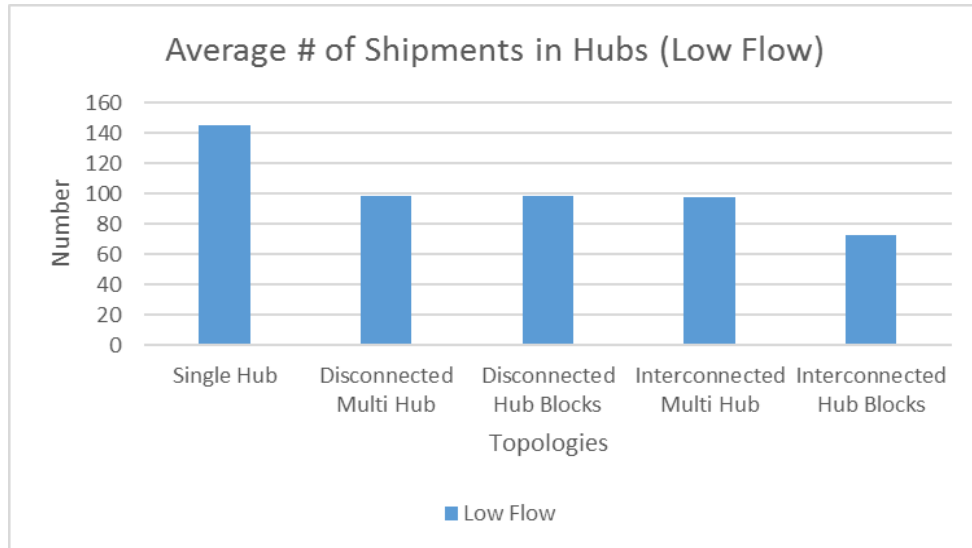
# Results



# Results



# Results



# *From business need to hyperconnectivity*



MIX MOVE  
MATCH

Transform your Supply Chain



# iCargo project

## •Delivery

- Customer Deliveries need to be created at original shipping location (because the Supply Chain lacks the information to do this later on).

## Handling

- All added handling is *BAD* as it only adds cost.

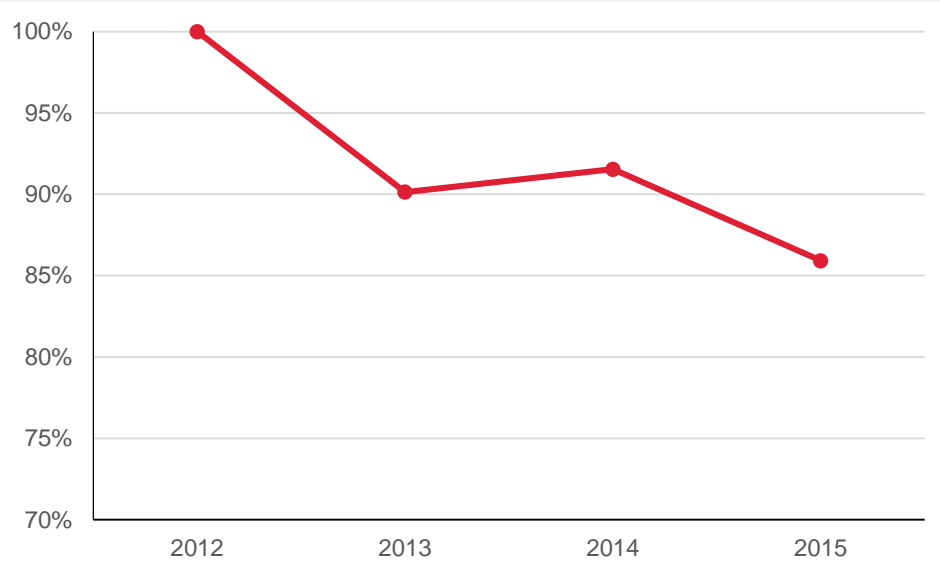
## Standardisation and collaboration

- Standardisation and Collaboration is not in the best interest of Logistics Service Providers.

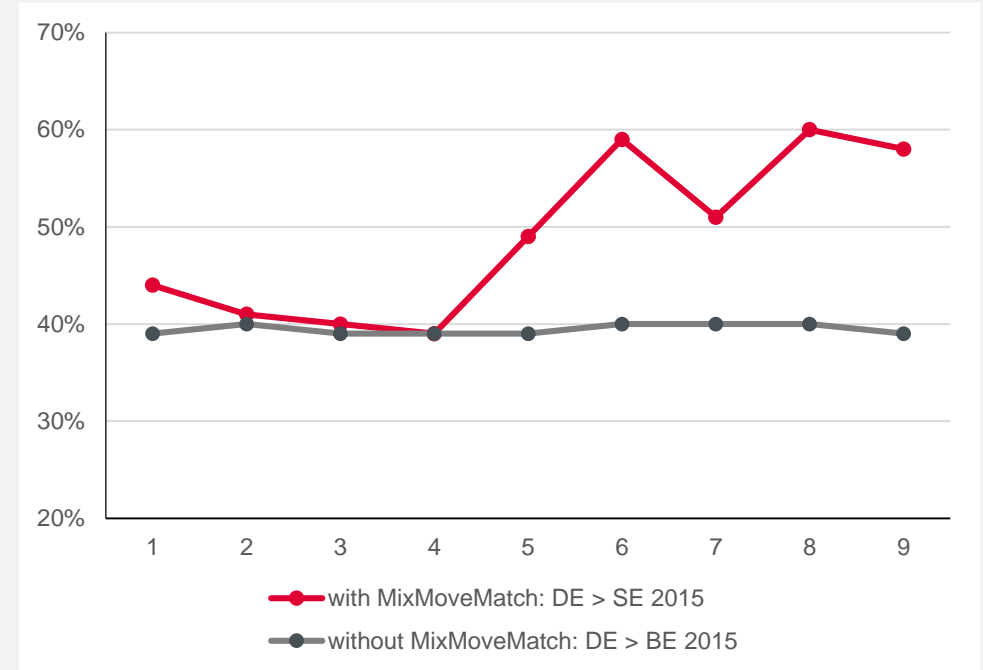




# Mix Move Match – Effects in practice over one operation



Freight costs evolution during the use of MixMoveMatch.com (index 100%=2012)



Load factor **with** and without use of MixMoveMatch.com during 9 months in 2015

# what clients say



Patrick Van de Vyver

3M EMEA's  
logistic operations

## **3M Saved 35% in logistics costs**

*"3M reduced transport costs by 35% and CO2 emissions by 50% since the MixMoveMatch.com system was launched"*

## **DHL become far more flexible and saved a lot of costs**

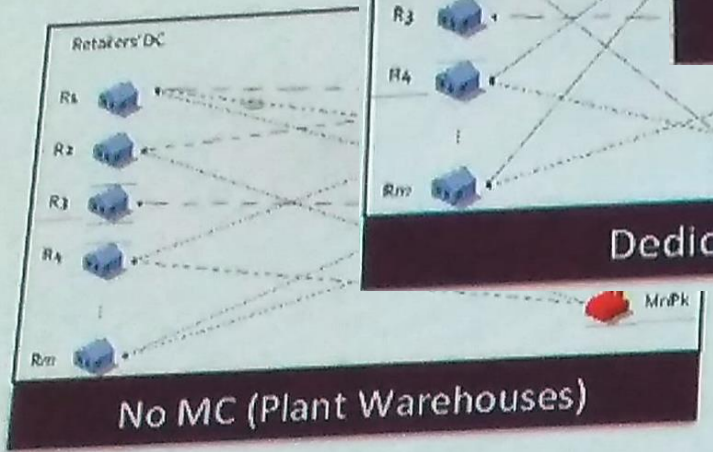
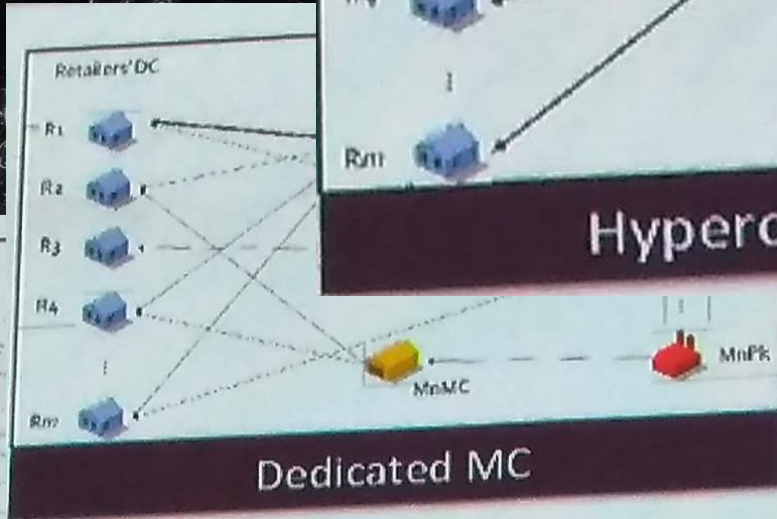
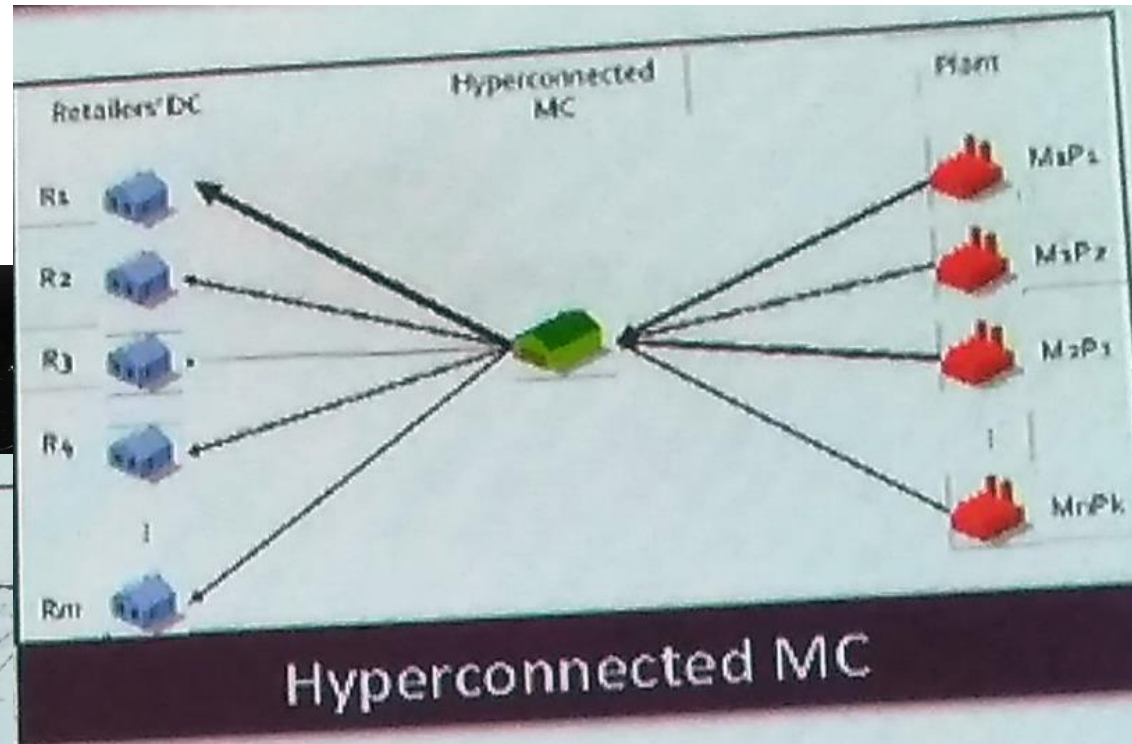
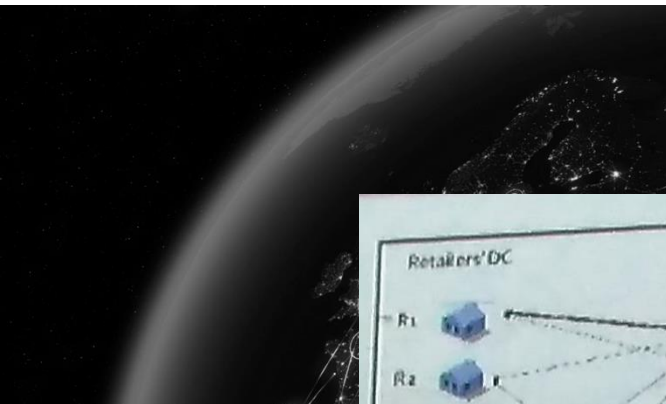
*"Warehousing costs are generally about half of the Transport costs in terms of cost of sales. This is why it doesn't get as much attention as it should. But having warehouses doing various kinds of things that you might not immediately think of as warehousing services allows you to **be far more flexible with your supply chain** and thus **save a lot of costs.**"*



Jaco Voorspuij

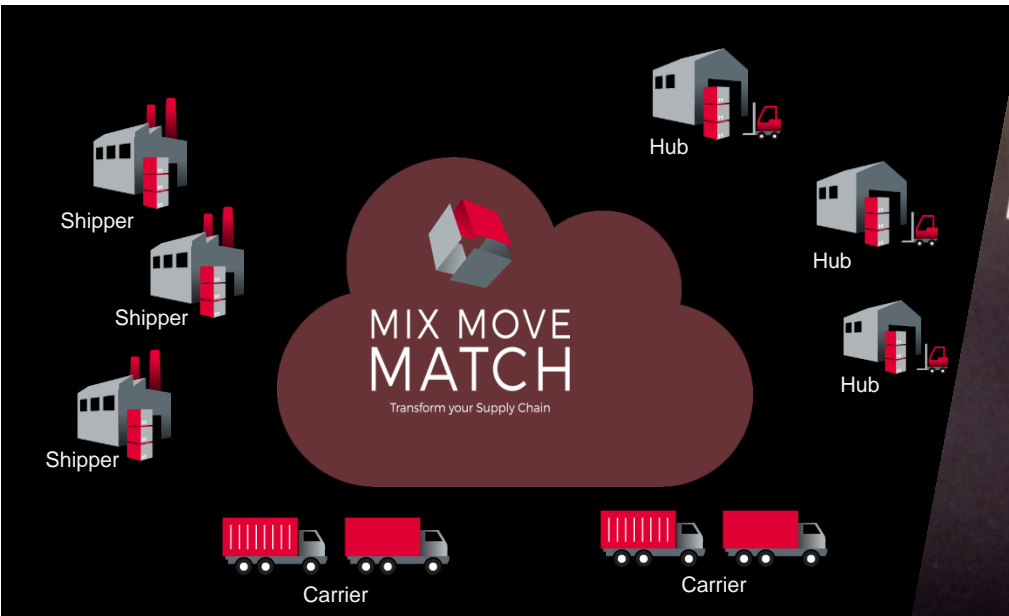
DHL IT lead EMEA  
region

# Collaboration



in  
age  
eral

# MixMoveMatch.com in a nutshell



# MixMoveMatch.com provides capabilities for:



## Shippers

- Horizontal collaboration
- Visibility
- Dashboard
- Rule based fulfillment
- ...

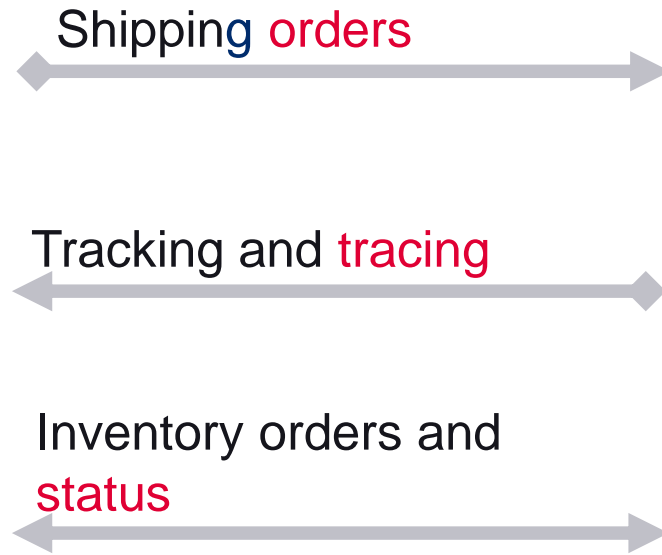
## Hubs

- x-dock/reconstruction
- Decide next segment
- Optimize use of resources
- Rule based
- ...

## Carriers

- Optimise movements
- Provide status/POD
- ...

# Supply Chain Integration



# Load Unit Optimisation

## The **objectives**



the **optimization of the load factor** in the distribution



to obtain **full transparency** of the increasingly fragmented supply chain **for all stakeholders** while



keeping the **flexibility and scalability** on parcel level

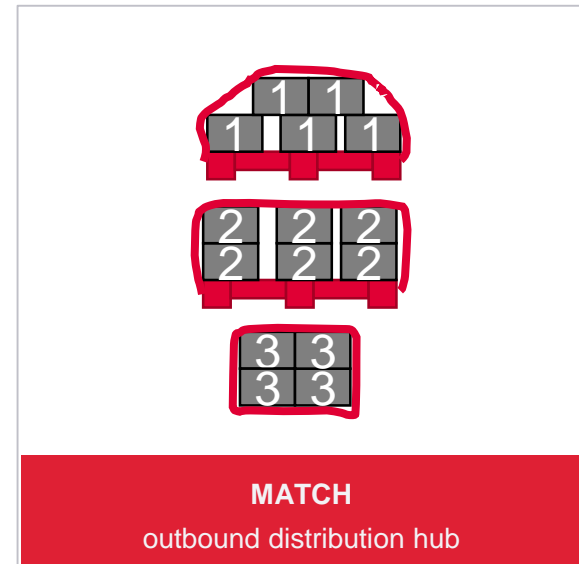
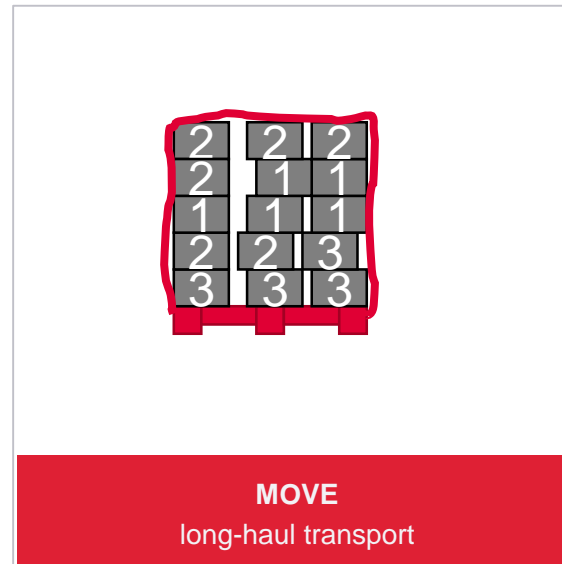
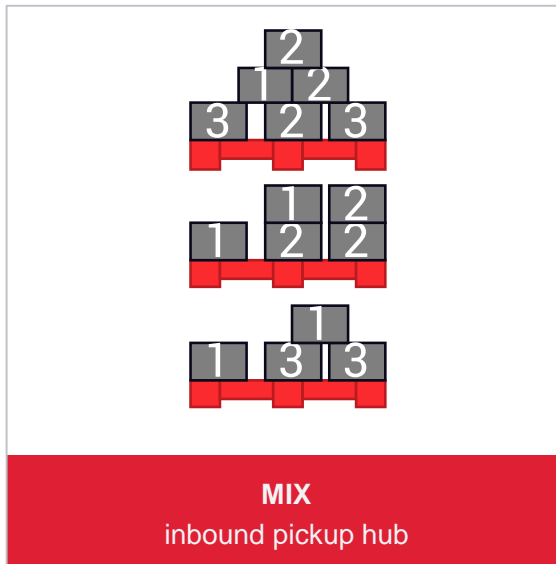


solution available for **every player**



# Load Unit Optimisation

## The solution

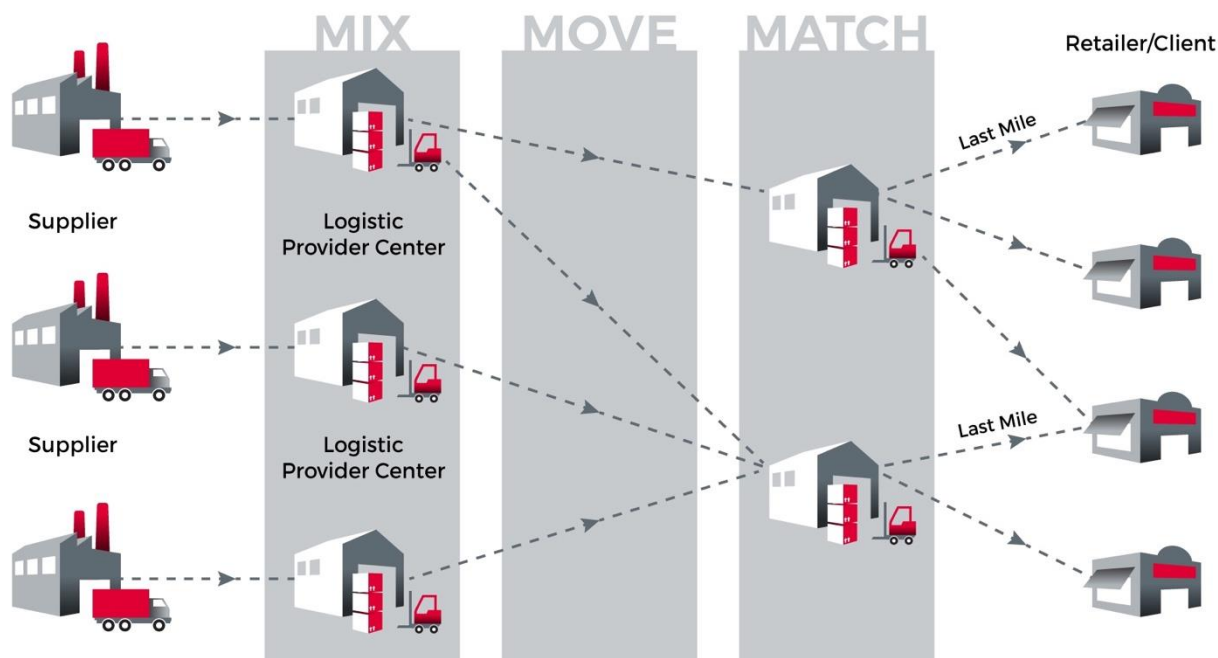


The consignments of various shippers on several trucks are consolidated in the hub according to destinations on mixed, high loaded pallets (Mix) and transported furtherone (Move). At the hub close to the destination area, the consignments will be sorted (Match), where also a higher bundling on the last mile can be achieved.



# Load Unit Optimisation

## How does it work?



Combines consignments

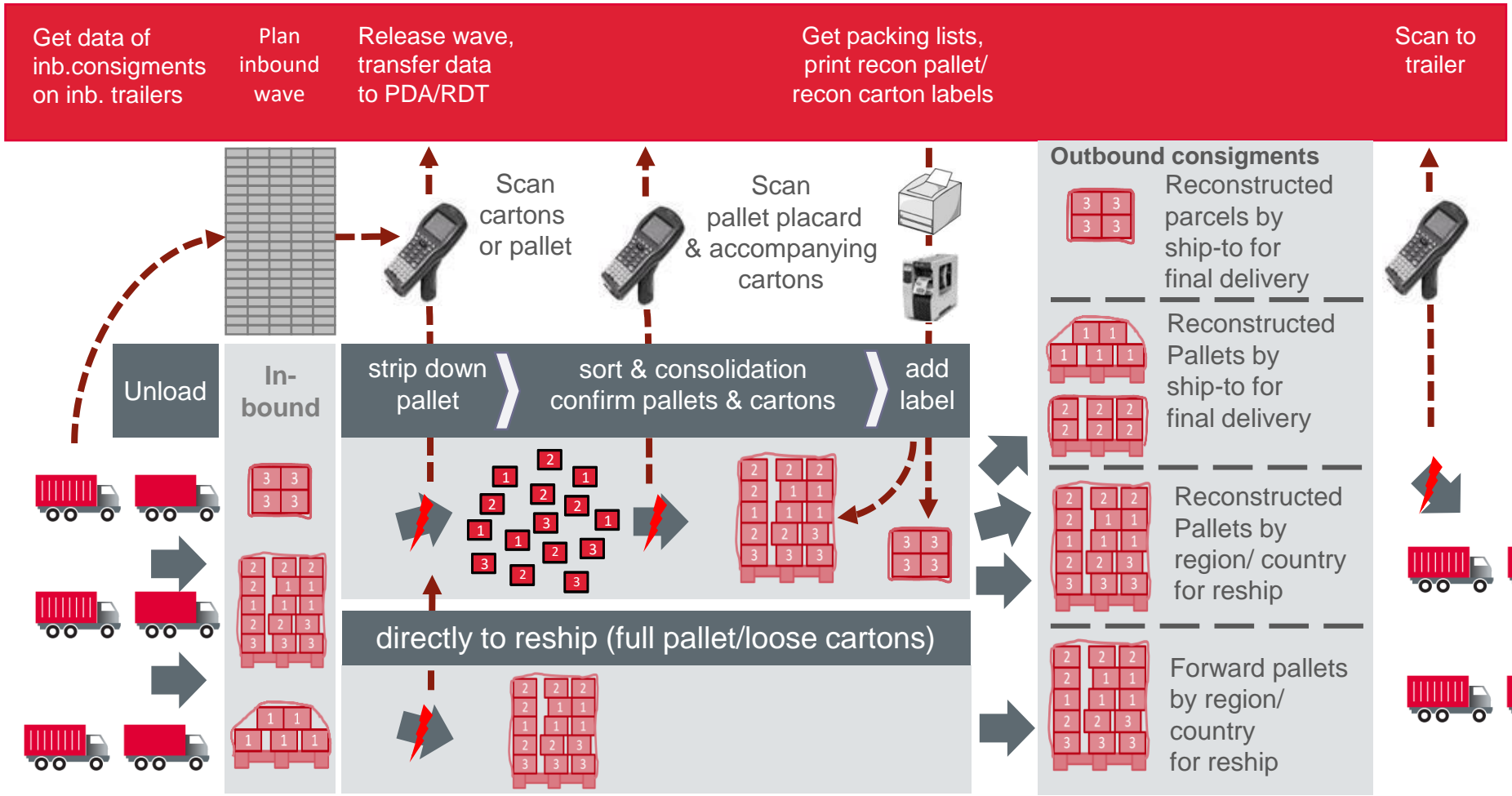
from different suppliers and carriers

...by stripping down and creating next leg

optimized consignments

...on therefore much higher loaded loading units

# Load Unit Optimisation The Process



# MixMoveMatch.com work routine



## preparation

Preparation of the work area:  
pre-sorting area, reconstruction area  
placards for instant visualization



## pre-sorting

Dismantling of inbound pallets,  
pre-sorting to reconstruction  
or parcel services



## reconstruction

Reconstruction to new consignment,  
consisting of packages from several  
inbound consignment

# Load Unit Optimisation

## The principle: unique identification

123

**DHL@home 48**  
DHL@home 48

**DHL**  
EXPRESS

From: Dan  
10 Randall Close  
Hopton  
Great Yarmouth  
Norfolk NR31 9RL

To: **Majahid**  
329 Marston Road  
Marston  
Oxford  
Oxfordshire  
OX3 0EP

Handling **HECO** Day Time

Shipment Number: Date: 2008/06/24  
Customer Number:  
Sender Ref: P2G1528938 1/1

OXFORD HATFIELD

2LGBOX30EP+99000075

(J) JD00 022 674 2318 0729



# Load Unit Optimisation Hub setup

Link to  
conveyor systems



MixMoveMatch  
Web Application  
in the Cloud

Shipper's  
ERP

MixMoveMatch  
RDT/PDA SW App  
locally on RDT/PDA

MixMoveMatch Print Agent  
locally on Print-Server



PDT / PDA  
(use existing terminals)



Print-Server  
(use existing Server)

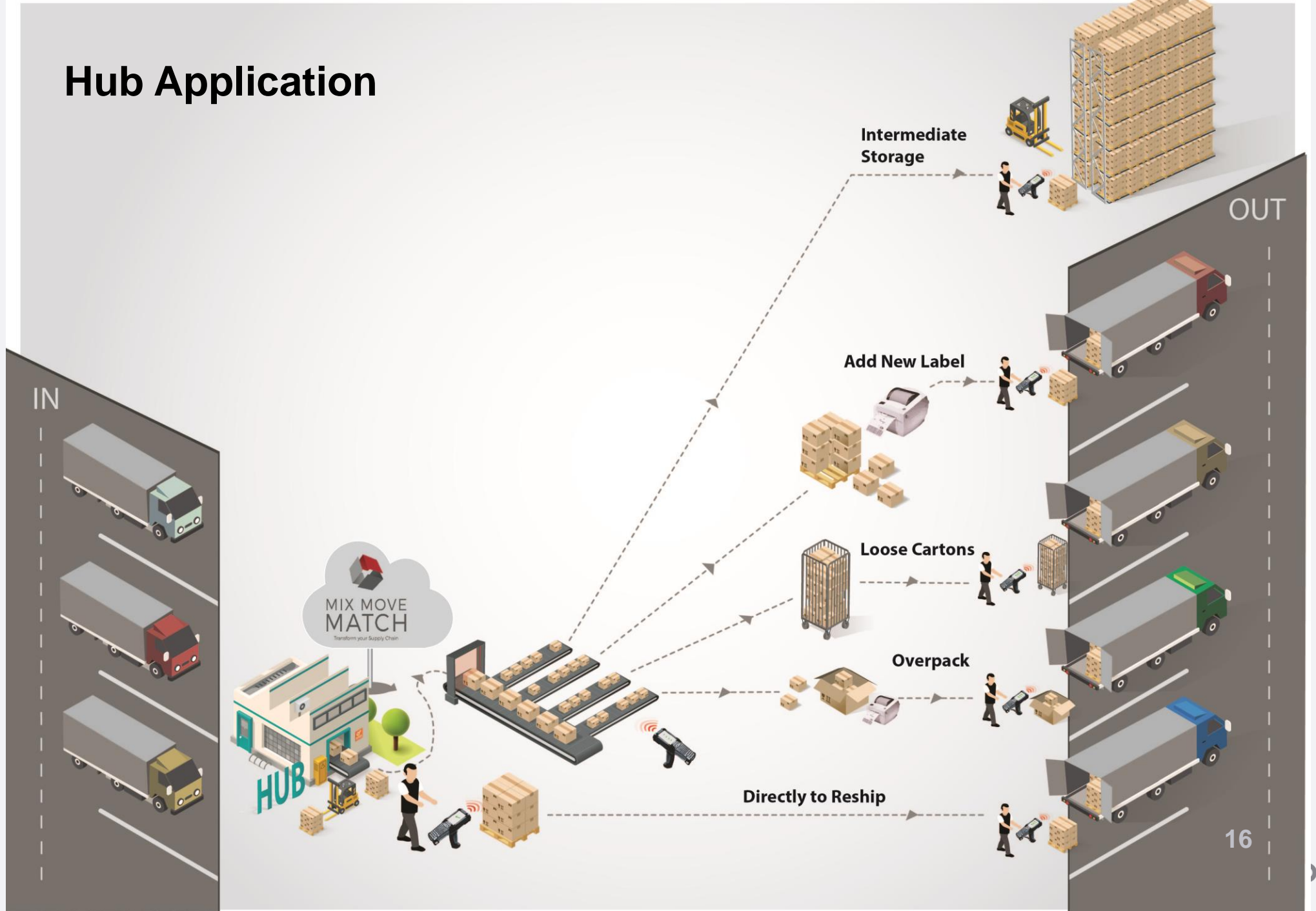


Network LAN  
A4 Printer



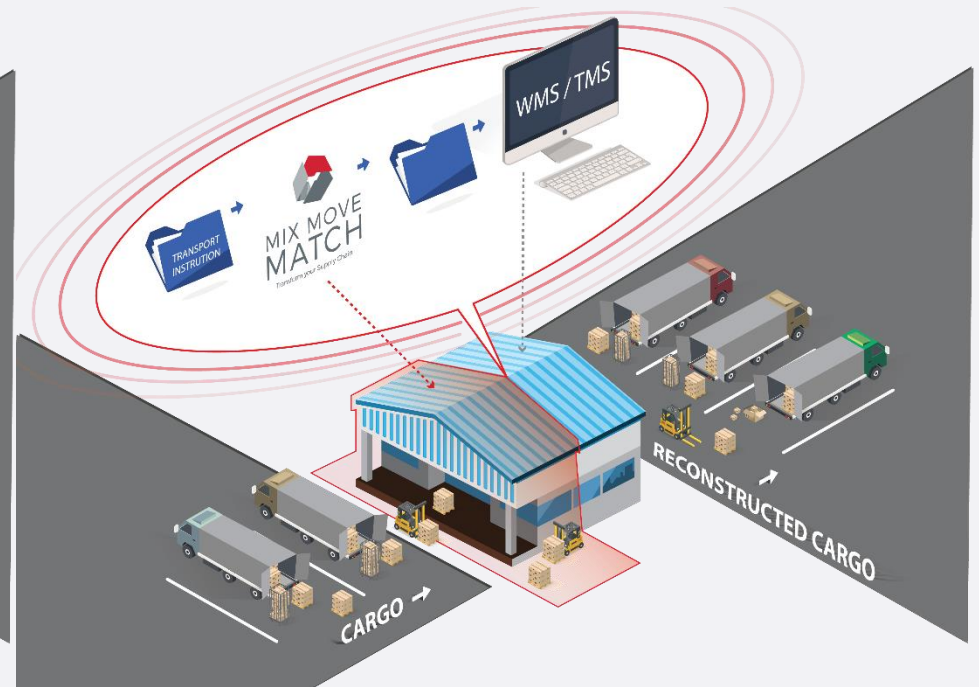
Network LAN  
Barcode Printer

# Hub Application

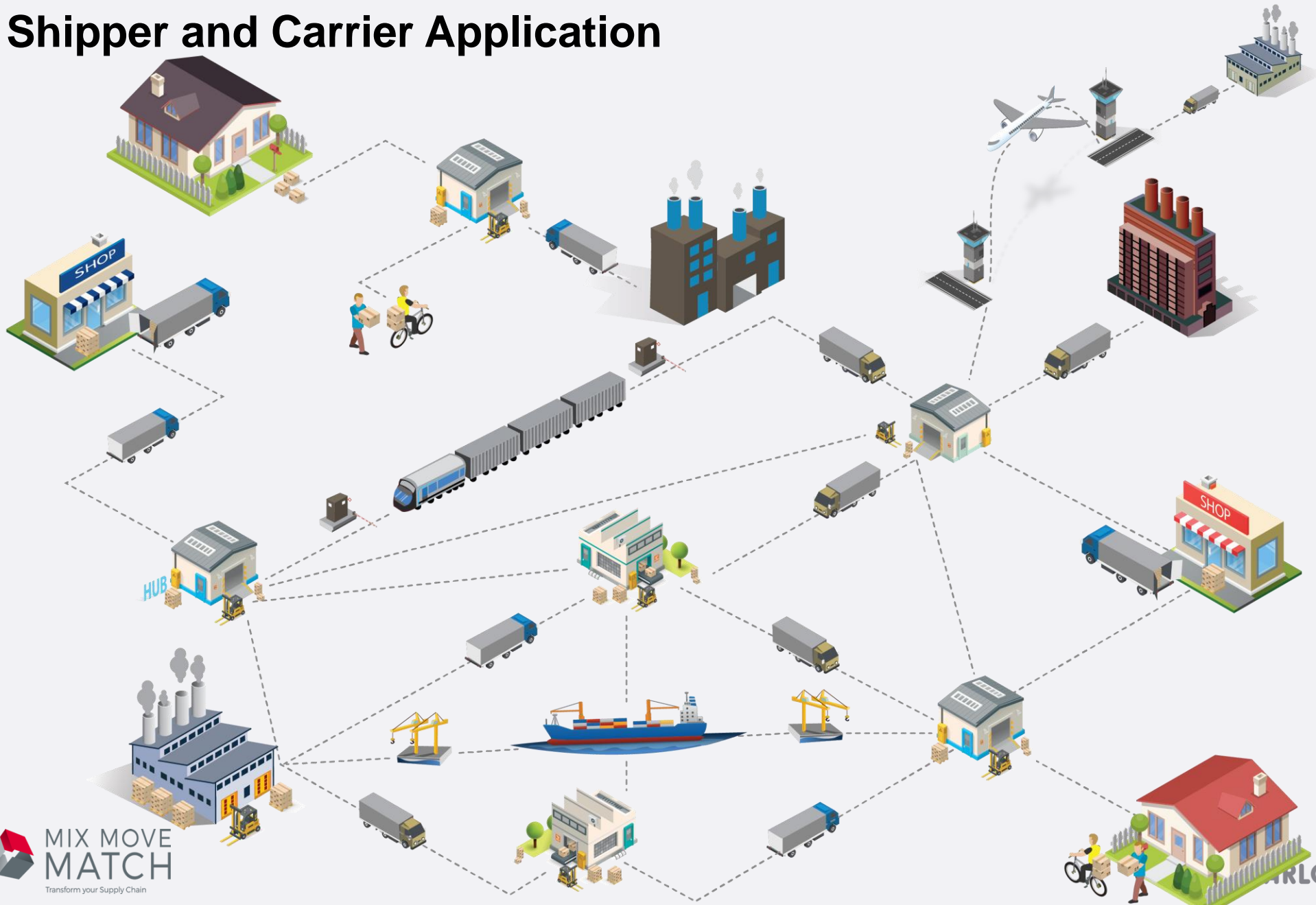




# Introduced without changes to existing infrastructure

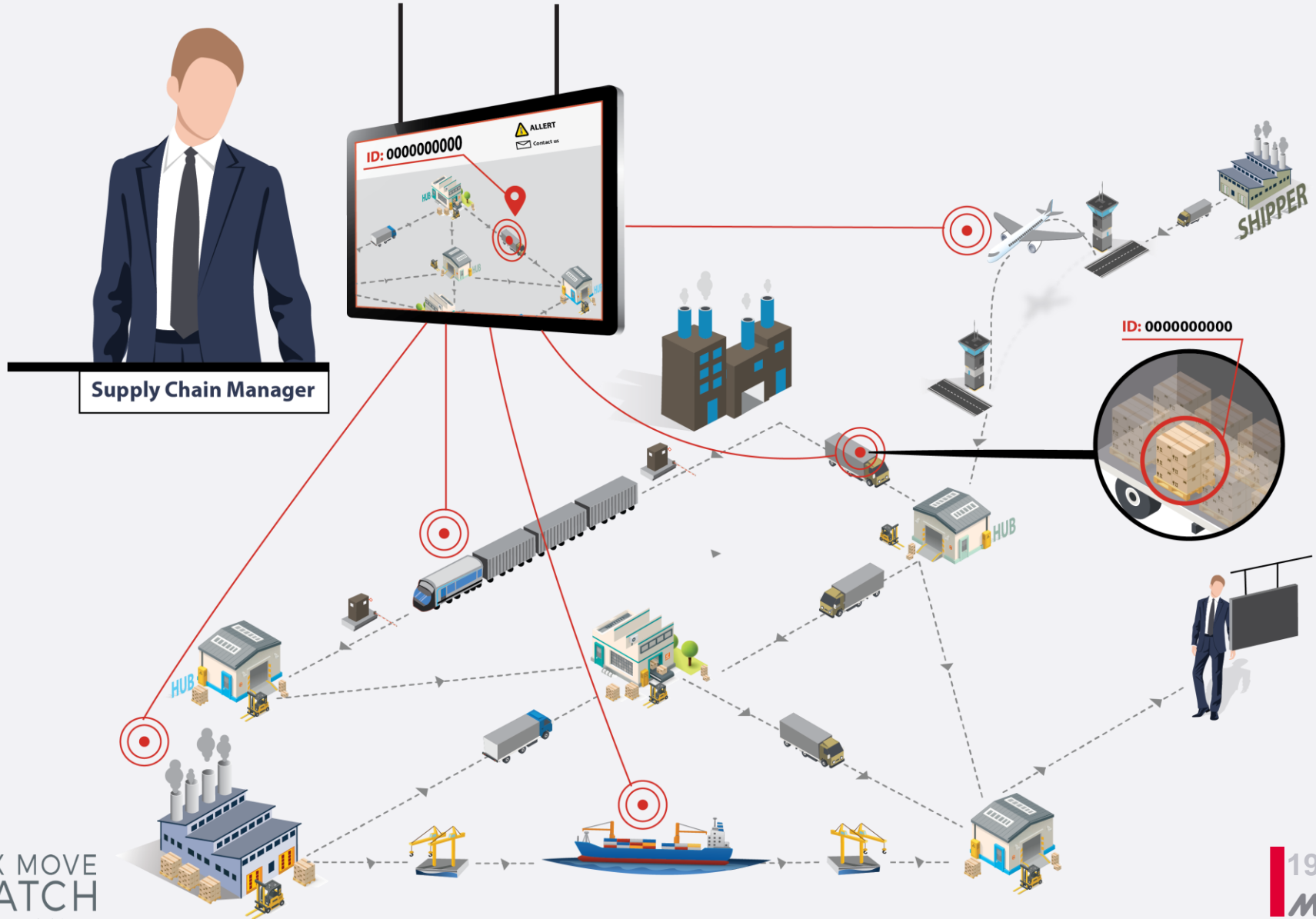


# Shipper and Carrier Application





# Visibility Application



# Dashboard



**30 terminals**  
**20+ city hubs**

**2.000.000 +**

Items shipped per month

**60.000 +**

More than 60.000 distinct products are handled with MixMoveMatch.com

**19**

Implemented in 19 countries



# MixMoveMatch.com implementation

**17 countries**

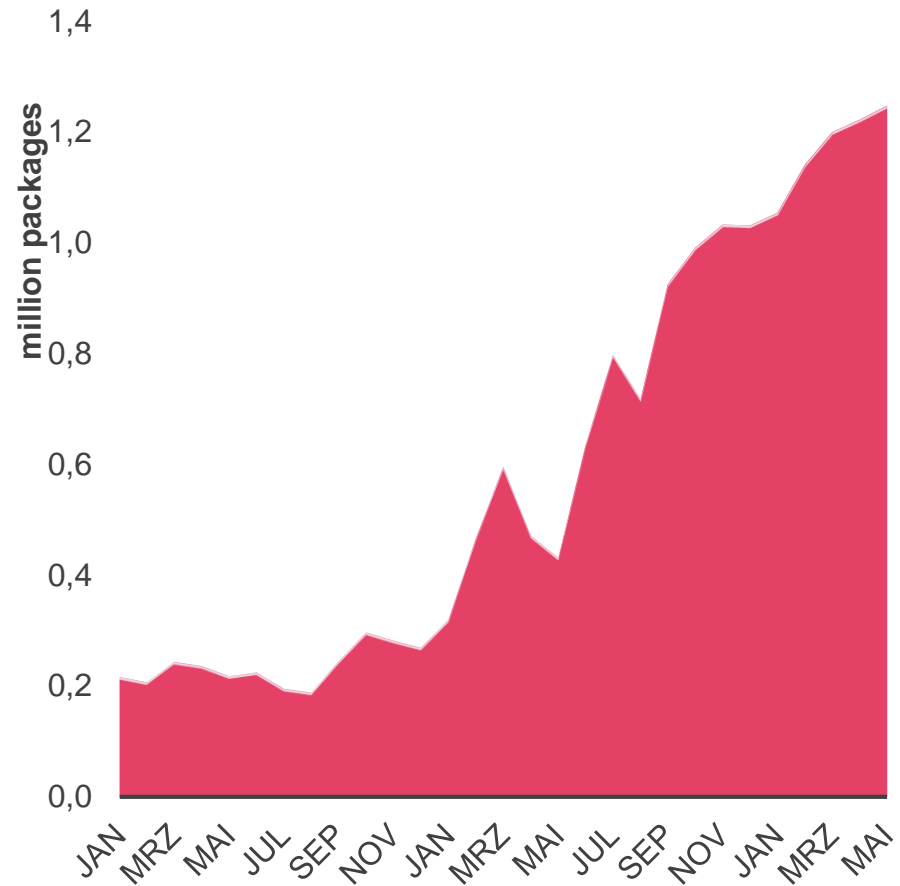
MixMoveMatch.com is now  
operating in 17 countries

**1.5 million / month**

Over 1,5 million packages are  
processed monthly

**60.000 +**

More than 60.000 products  
handled



# reference shippers and logistic providers are using it



... and many others

# MixMoveMatch.com

## example: 3M

### The 3M case study

- ✓ Before the distribution took place on customer specific pallets right from the 50 factories or distribution centres causing a load factor of about 31% in average only.
- ✓ By applying the principle of MixMoveMatch.com the load factor increased to more than 70% in average.
- ✓ During the period of the ongoing operation of the rule based optimisation of MixMoveMatch a steadily increasing load factor, obviously being a learning curve, could be observed.
- ✓ In the first year of operation alone MixMoveMatch.com 3M saved about 5 million truck-kilometer or rather 10% of their transport related CO2 emissions
- ✓ According to 3M, MixMoveMatch.com now originates approx. 35% savings in total logistics costs



MIX MOVE  
MATCH

Transform your Supply Chain

# MixMoveMatch.com Physical Internet Provider

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