

# Digital dock efficiencies

***Comprehensive Logistics deploys digital solution to achieve real-time control and awareness over dock processes for truck OEM and Tier-1 customers.***

Comprehensive Logistics' approach to warehouse efficiencies is rooted in the process flow for each part they handle inside their DCs, while also reaching out to the dock doors. In fact, a digital dock control and visibility solution (4SIGHT Logistics Solution) is one of the systems the company has used to support its approach.

Automotive and industrial OEM/Tier-1 customers rely on Comprehensive Logistics to support their high-volume, high-velocity manufacturing environments. An industry-leading, third-party logistics (3PL) provider, the Bonita Springs, Florida-based company is constantly seeking out innovative approaches to create greater process efficiency and safety, especially through fast-evolving Internet of Things (IoT) technology.

Comprehensive Logistics' services range from the engineering of supply chain networks and warehouse management, to sub-assembly manufacturing and dedicated shuttle, transportation and yard management. Within the warehousing discipline lies the company's expertise in process-flow, engineering, building design and layout.

When designing customer warehouses, Comprehensive Logistics relies on a plan for every part (PFEP) methodology, which helps the company understand every part, packaging, volume and mix. Key elements in the development of their solution are designed to optimize space and material flow. The PFEP directly impacts the materials handling equipment selected as well as safety standards.

The 3PL firmly believes in engineering the building design to optimize and create the highest level of efficiency generating the highest productivity and reduced operating costs.

"When we decided to examine automating the receiving end of our warehouse dock operations, we looked to 4SIGHT Connect, especially due to our many years of success with Kelley dock equipment," says Pat Brugger, vice president of materials management & quality at Comprehensive Logistics.

The goal, according to Brugger, is for his company to fully understand what's happening at every loading dock on a "live" or real-time basis. In a fast-paced environment, with dock doors spread across the perimeter of a warehouse, it's impossible to staff for real-time information.

For example, for a commercial truck OEM company's warehouse outside of Dallas, Comprehensive Logistics is currently generating valuable dock data through 4SIGHT Connect. Prior to implementing the solution, the customer relied on manual tracking for trailer arrival/departure data. Unloading could not begin until the driver delivered his keys to the receiving clerk, when the

trailer was assumed to be safe and properly restrained.

Instead, 4SIGHT Connect now sends an alert confirming a trailer is properly restrained, and most importantly, sends an alert when proper restraint is not in place. The solution uses sensors and Cloud-based connectivity. In addition to digital access, alerts and visibility, a digital dock approach provides a wealth of data and key performance indicators on dock activity and trends.

With 4SIGHT Connect, the unloading process may begin faster, with assured safety measures and reduced unload times allowing the

driver to get back on the road sooner and the receiving dock to move on to the next trailer.

"Now that a variety of loading dock activities are automated, we're grabbing that data and updating our systems automatically so we can have real-time information about what's going on at every dock door," explains Brugger.

"The data is then subject to a growing array of algorithms designed to provide immediate, agile decision making. To complete the cycle, the data is moved through our business intelligence/analysis platform to guide us to potential continuous improvements."

By providing real-time visibility of dock equipment and loading dock activity, 4SIGHT Connect provides status data automatically allowing Comprehensive Logistics' operational teams the ability to be safe, more efficient and productive, saving time and money.



*The digital dock access solution ensures proper use of constraints, online tracking of trailer arrival/departure data, and KPIs on dock activity.*