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General News

Kai Benthack is new Director with Agility Germany

Kai Benthack (47) took on the role of Director Ocean Freight Germany on 1 October. In this position, he reports directly to Jörn Schmersahl, Vice President Oceanfreight for Agility's Area Central Europe. Kai Benthack has profit and loss responsibility for Oceanfreight Germany. Among other things, his duties include the operative lead of the business unit, customer relationship management with business partners, as well as personally taking care of the most important clients. Kai Benthack follows Andreas Frank Schmidt, who left Agility in June 2008.



Hamburg-born Benthack brings the best qualifications to the post; after an apprenticeship as a shipping company trader, he worked for Hapag-Lloyd for almost 20 years in the most diverse line and management posts, gathering comprehensive experience abroad. Among other positions, he was Head of Marketing Export in East Asia, and Director of the West Gulf region, acting from Houston, Texas. Kai Benthack had ascended to Director Strategic Global Accounts in New Jersey, when he left Hapag-Lloyd in 2007. Since then, he led procurement and carrier management with Rohde & Liesenfeldt in Hamburg.

About Agility :

Agility is a leading global logistics provider with more than 32,000 employees, and over 550 offices in 100 countries around the world. A publicly traded company, with \$6.2 billion in annual revenue, it has three key operating units - Global Integrated Logistics (GIL), Defense & Government Services (DGS) and Investments. Through GIL, they focus on offering customers truly personal service and flexible supply chain solutions tailored to meet their individual business needs, supported by a comprehensive network of warehousing facilities, transportation and freight management services. Our customers span a range of industries from technology and retail to defense and government and oil and gas.

General News

FMC not finished examining port's "concession agreement"

The Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference (IMCC) of the [American Trucking Associations](#) (ATA) filed Comments this week in response to the Federal Maritime Commission's (FMC) October 8, 2008 *Federal Register* Notice, concerning the Los Angeles-Long Beach Marine Terminal Agreement.

According to a statement, the ATA first noted that the ports "have finally placed before the Commission key elements of the Los Angeles-Long Beach Clean Truck Program (CTP) that should have been filed by them months ago." This was in response to the FMC's June 13, 2008 request for further information regarding agreements implementing the CTP.

"We also assert that the Agreement, in its current form, is unlawful and will adversely affect drayage services and prices," said ATA spokesmen. "Moreover, any legitimate environmental and port safety elements of the CTP are already being implemented (as of October 1) by the ports through elements of the CTP that need not require motor carriers to become Concessionaires and otherwise comply with ports mandates."

As reported in *LM* earlier this month, those mandates comprise the following:

- (1) establish the signing of a Concession agreement as a prerequisite to drayage carriers serving each port;
- (2) include a minimum set of complex and burdensome provisions in each Concession; and
- (3) Mandate their tenant Terminal Operators establish a blockade of drayage carriers that do not accede to those Concession Agreement burdens.

"We believe the Commission should fulfill its responsibilities under section 6 and act expeditiously to ensure that these unlawful Concession-related provisions are removed from the Agreement, and also ensure that the infrastructure and environmental elements of the Agreement proceed unhindered," said Curtis Whalen, IMCC's executive director.

"This is our fourth filing on the discussion agreement," Whalen told *LM*, "and the basic point is that they should investigate the discriminatory nature of concessions rather than just moving forward."

Critical Issues

Driving Down Logistics Costs - 2009 Symposium from AMHSA

On 2nd April next year the Automated Material Handling Systems Association (AMHSA) is holding a special symposium on driving down logistics costs via automation. To be held at the Heritage Motor Centre in Warwickshire, this one day 'by invitation only' event provides an unrivalled opportunity to meet and learn from leading experts in the field of automated material handling systems.

The symposium will also feature case studies presented by senior executives from companies which have successfully implemented automated systems in their warehouses. Consequently, it provides the perfect opportunity to question decision-makers with first-hand experience on the challenges and benefits of installing automated systems.



Automated Material Handling Systems Association

The full agenda for the day will be announced in October, but as places are limited anyone wishing to receive an invitation should visit the AMHSA website without delay:
<http://www.amhsa.co.uk/sign.htm>

Transport & Distribution News

TNT Sets Up New Gateway at Osaka Kansai International Airport

TNT, the global express and mail company, has announced the opening of its new International Gateway at Japan's Osaka Kansai International Airport. The TNT International Gateway in Osaka Kansai will not only strengthen the express service capability of TNT's Northeast Asian International Express Network, it will also shorten the transit time for deliveries into Osaka, from China by one day.

TNT customers will now be able to enjoy the one-stop comprehensive express delivery service between China and Osaka, one of Japan's key manufacturing hubs, in the shortest possible time. Consignments, leaving Shanghai and other Chinese coastal cities, can now be delivered directly to Osaka Kansai. This time saving is crucial for TNT customers mainly in the electronics and apparel/textile industries, where time critical deliveries remain one of its most important competitive advantages.

"I am really excited about the opening of the TNT International Gateway in Kansai as it will boost our service capabilities to our customers especially those in the electronics and apparel/textile industries," said Marie-Christine Lombard, Group Managing Director of TNT's Express division "TNT's expansion in the region continues to be driven by the needs of our customers, which often work under severe time-to-market conditions. By shortening transit times to Kansai by one day, TNT will be best placed to support them in minimizing their time-to-market process. This is definitely a new growth sector for both TNT in China and Japan."

TNT's operations in Kansai International Airport will place TNT in a good position to facilitate the growing trade and business flows between China and Japan and will provide businesses in these regions with comprehensive, reliable and time-definite delivery services. Since 2007, China has been Japan's biggest trading partner while Japan continues to be one of the top trading partner of China. Based on figures released by the Japanese Finance Ministry in 2007, the two-way trade between China and Japan has shot up 10% to US\$214 billion.

At the same time, Vietnam which has been poised as one of Asia's key manufacturing economies and is one of the fastest growing exporting countries to Japan in Asia, will also benefit from the shortened transit times to Osaka Kansai.

Transport & Distribution News

Kerry Asia Road Transport connects China with South East Asia

Kerry Asia Road Transport (KART), a member of Kerry Logistics and the Thailand-based road transport specialist, is launching a new service between Kunming in China and Bangkok connecting its South East Asian network to China. KART will also add another route from Guangxi province in China to Vietnam later in the year.

KART is a pioneer in building the first ASEAN cross border trucking service linking up ASEAN countries particularly Thailand and Malaysia providing a door-to-door service throughout the region.

In China, we have built a nationwide transport and logistics platform for more than 20 years and will now connect with the KART network through its Kunming transport hub in China's South West.

'The new integrated network will provide shippers with an option to truck directly to anywhere in South East Asia or China and the service will also provide direct connections to major airports and ports,' said Mr. Alex Ng, Assistant General Manager of KART South East Asia.

"With our trucking fleet and a state-of-the-art IT system we will provide an integrated trucking service with full visibility throughout the supply chain," he added.

The trucks will start operating on a weekly schedule between Bangkok and Kunming on 40 foot Hi-Cube (LCL and on demand FCL).

Customers will also be able to leverage off the Group's portfolio of services including international air, sea freight forwarding, warehousing, distribution, express, customs brokerage and seaport operations within the region.

Transport & Distribution News

Roberto Daverio talks on National Logistics Centre in Italy

The multinational corporation Lyreco is one of Europe's market leaders for the distribution of office supplies and computer consumables. Lyreco has 900 10.000 employees, delivers 190,000 a little bit more than 200 000 packages daily in 28 countries, and is aiming for an annual turnover of 2.2 billion euros.

The National logistics centre in Monticelli, with its surface area of 22,000 m², is the heart of the distribution network of Lyreco Italy. This facility includes the warehouse for stocking a distribution product range composed of 6,500 articles with 13000 orders / day. There are 65 employees working in the warehouse, and the average stock turnover is 22 days

SAVOYE qualified as the chosen partner for the facility in Monticelli, which was the first pilot project. Facilities in Belgium, Denmark and most recently in Canada then followed followed.

"All international national orders in Italy are managed in Monticelli" explains Daverio. "Every day, 60 employees pick about 200,000 articles for 10,000 shipping boxes and another 2,000 shipments are prepared for direct delivery to the customer. On top of that, we guarantee a service quality of 99.8% with an error quota of 0.001. Ninety percent of the shipments are delivered in person within 24 hours of ordering. This also makes the order fulfilment process completely traceable, from the order itself to delivery of the product

SAVOYE is one of Europe's leading suppliers of warehouse automation and order picking solutions. Providing high performance systems and solutions to optimize warehouse operations, Savoyes unique mix of packaging technology, own manufactured conveyor systems and powerful configurable WMS provide customer specific solutions from standard components. SAVOYE has over 500 sites throughout Europe operating in a wide variety of market sectors ranging from office products, books and media to textiles and E-business

Lyreco Italy - Fact & Figures

- 400 Service personnel
- 40 Call centres
- 170 Staff
- 40,000 Customers
- 18 Regional distribution centres

Transport & Distribution News

FKI Logistex Completes Expansion Project For The Forzani Group

FKI Logistex®, a global leader in integrated material handling solutions, announces that it has completed a large project with The Forzani Group Ltd., Canada's largest retailer of sporting goods, expanding Forzani's existing distribution center (DC) in Toronto. FKI Logistex added a new put module and routing sortation system to increase the facility's capacity and allow Forzani to serve more stores nationwide.

In 2003, FKI Logistex installed an automated material handling system for Forzani that included a put-to-light module, a conveyor system and a UniSort IV® shipping sorter. The system was designed to be expandable to support Forzani's projected growth by including a mezzanine level, which now houses the new put module.

"The expansion of our DC is critical to keeping our stores stocked with a broad selection of sports and outdoor equipment and apparel," said Keith Lambert, senior vice president of Supply Chain and Merchandise Management, The Forzani Group Ltd. "Working with FKI Logistex to optimize our distribution operations and accommodate our growth has been invaluable to Forzani's success in our supply chain strategy."

FKI Logistex provided Forzani with an additional order fulfillment system, which includes EASYpick® Put-to-Light software and Trak3™ Put-to-Light hardware. The expansion also includes the implementation of quad-directional Accuzone® right-angle transfers, which enable the module to sort into four separate zones instead of two, as in the original design. The put-to-light system requires only one light display for each shipping destination, instead of one for every product SKU, as in a pick-to-light system. With fewer displays, the system can service a wide range of products efficiently, making it ideal for Forzani, which ships a large number of SKUs to many locations. FKI Logistex also reworked the infeed and discharge lines to service the new put module, and installed a slapper line to offset full-case picking.

"FKI Logistex has fostered a substantial portfolio of long-term partnerships with major retailers," said Steve McElweenie, vice president and general manager, FKI Logistex Canada, Ltd. "By providing expandable automated material handling systems, FKI Logistex offers its customers the flexibility to scale operations for future growth while maintaining efficiency."

FKI Logistex completed installation on a six-week schedule, and the new system went live in June 2008.