Transportation and Logistic Services (TLS) Provider Business Action Group

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is widely promoted as providing many benefits within the supply chain, with important contributing benefits accrued throughout transport and logistics processes. Many transport and logistic enterprises have experimented with RFID exploring opportunities for improving operational effectiveness and efficiency. It is probably fair to say that most transport and logistics enterprises have eventually considered, both the technical challenges, as well as the lack of standards, as a major barrier to widespread adoption. EPCglobal's Transportation and Logistics Services (TLS) Provider Business Action Group (BAG) is being established to tackle these concerns.

The TLS Group is one of an expanding number of industry focused global RFID standards groups developed under the EPCglobal standards framework. This framework provides the assured commitment, that all standards work completed will be compatible with your transport and logistics partners, as well as your customers' requirements too. The TLS BAG is enroute to being launched in the autumn of 2005 with direct support and contribution from more than 25 transportation and logistics organizations.

"Being an early adaptor of RFID technology and working with our customers to develop its potential, DHL's membership of EPCglobal provides us with a platform from where we can actively promote and influence the development of global standards in a network with other users. This in turn helps us to better respond to our customers' needs for more effective supply chains through the deployment of RFID. "

Mogens J Bak, Global Head Retail. DHL Solutions

The group has been formed from an initial Summit meeting held in Brussels in April 2005. This gathering of providers from around the world, representing the many sectors of Transport and Logistics successfully led to a series of ongoing meetings and the second Summit which took place in Singapore 18-20th July. Currently four initial working groups have been identified and agreed upon. The four work groups are entitled:

1. Transportation
2. "Four walls"
3. Import Export Clearance
4. Integration

The objective of the groups is to develop standards that meet with business justified and clearly defined community goals. Interoperability, important to the majority of transportation and logistics process is likely to be a key driver. It is anticipated that each enterprise will use the standards developed under the EPCglobal framework to create their own products and services, exploiting opportunities provided by EPCglobal standards to their competitive advantage.

"Exel is committed to understanding RFID's impact on the supply chain in order to better support and create solutions for our customers. Through our subscription to EPCglobal, we are able to better assist our customers with analysis and deployment of the emerging technology as well as influencing standards development to meet our company's needs and those of the industry."

Tony Hollis, Manager - RFID Strategy & Execution, Information Technology, Exel

We wish to offer all transport and logistics service providers the opportunity to join in the activities of the EPCglobal Transportation and Logistics Service (TLS) Provider activities. The time for your organization to get involved is now!

For more information regarding the EPCglobal Transportation and Logistics Services Business Action Group (TLS BAG) and upcoming meetings, please contact Tony Hollis via email at Tony.Hollis@us.exel.com or Mogens Bak via email at Mogens.Bak@dhl.com.

For more information regarding EPCglobal visit www.epcglobalinc.org or contact our Subscriber Services team at EPCinfo@epcglobainc.org.

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