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E-freight solutions and supply chain management**



**Collaborative Information Services for Container Management**

**Descartes GLN**

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## 1 Descartes GLN (Global Logistics Network)

The Descartes Global Logistics Network™ (Descartes GLN) is the standard for multimodal, inter-enterprise electronic data and document exchange. The Descartes GLN™ was developed with logistics operations in mind. It is unique in its management of data semantics, message delivery, and transformation of data pertaining to regional or global operations and in its ability to work across wired and wireless technologies.

The Descartes GLN gives you the flexibility to connect and collaborate your way. It was designed to be a network, and is not an application attempting to act as a network. You can seamlessly move or transfer data through the network to your various trading partners, leverage Descartes' network-based solutions or connect to your existing solutions. This inherent flexibility of the Descartes GLN gives you the ability to create logistics business processes to operate or to differentiate yourself from the competition.

A continuously growing community (over 35,000 organizations in more than 160 countries) leverages Descartes' broad array of connectivity, document management and community services. Organisations connected around the world include: ocean carriers, airlines, road carriers, rail carriers, regulatory agencies including customs authorities, freight forwarders, NVOCC, 3PLs, manufacturers, retailers, distributors, customs brokers/agents and mobile service providers.

On top of the Descartes GLN, Descartes offers a variety of applications that use the Descartes GLN to communicate between business partners and with regulatory authorities in the following domains: transportation management, customs and regulatory compliance, broker and forwarder enterprise systems, network services and mobile, routing and telematics.

The Descartes GLN delivers the following core features:

- Connectivity through a variety of communication protocols, including wireless device connectivity, and more than 26 interconnected value-added networks
- High-speed, real-time data transfer, including configuration of specific message routing rules
- Industry-leading electronic management of a rich set of commercial, logistics and regulatory documents, including air, ocean and truck messaging standards
- Data transformation services, converting one data format to another, including conversion from an electronic format to an image such as PDF
- Archiving of data up to 11 years
- A message monitoring dashboard (myGLN), including look-up capabilities on business keys such as commercial invoice number or container number
- Ad hoc connectivity to non-registered parties

Sophisticated security mechanisms are in place to make sure that only registered organisations can send and receive information and access myGLN, limited to only its exchanged documents.

Within COMCIS, the Descartes GLN has the role of the "neutral data aggregation layer", leveraging existing and newly connected companies to a wider community. Compared to the SMART CM platform, which was a dedicated platform, the Descartes GLN provides benefits such as scalability, reduced implementation effort and lead-time and reduced running costs. The Descartes GLN is an existing proven platform, which has all relevant features of the SMART CM neutral layer. From the Descartes GLN, the data can be passed in a standard way, using the common framework and SDMF standard, to value added services such as visibility dashboards.

**About COMCIS**

COMCIS was a two-year project to explore the possibilities and commercial viability of employing situational awareness tools to solve problems of data fragmentation, delay and inconsistency throughout the global supply chain. The project used the Common Framework supporting interoperability between ICT systems in logistics and deployed a three-layer architecture based on:

- 1) Aggregating data from multiple sources without requiring changes to the underlying IT systems;
- 2) Standardising data so that it could be processed by value-added services, independent of its original source and format;
- 3) Consolidating data to create on time, qualified and derived information that could support operational decisions by delivering the right information to the right person, at the right time, in a user-friendly way.

The COMCIS project ended in September 2013, but the ideas and technologies continue to be developed by the participants. COMCIS was co-funded by the European Commission.

**For more information about COMCIS**

Go to <http://www.comcis.eu> or contact:

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**For more information about Descartes GLN**

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