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E-freight solutions and supply chain management**



**Collaborative Information Services for Container Management**

**Descartes ICS SEAP**

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## 1 Descartes ICS SEAP solution

ICS stands for Import Control System, the EU requirement for safety and security analysis before goods arrive into EU, enabled by the filing of the Entry Summary Declaration or ENS.

Descartes has developed a commercial solution for ICS, called Global Filer. Global Filer is a single, global dashboard and user interface, in a portal-based framework that enables collaboration between multiple parties to address customs filing requirements across modes of transport in countries as they are mandated. Global Filer leverages existing electronic data to minimize duplicate data submissions or re-keying. The complexity is that there are 27 current different national customs clearance systems across the EU, which is solved by the Descartes application by providing a uniform interface. The solution is currently live in more than 15 EU countries.

Within Smart CM, the ICS declaration process has been integrated on request of the customs authorities, storing the ENS declaration reference or MRN (Movement Reference Number) in the neutral layer. The solution was also called SEAP (Single Electronic Access Point), which has been demonstrated for declarations sent by the ocean carriers. Within COMCIS, we want to demonstrate ICS for declarations sent by the freight forwarder, which has some additional challenges such as knowing the first port of entry and the routing countries.

The customer can send the ENS both manually in the Web based user interface, or directly from its own operational system, or a combination of both. Within the user interface he can also follow up the declaration status and take additional actions such as amendments.

Descartes has developed the concept of the SMF (Standard Message Format), which is an XML format based on the WCO data model that acts as data super set containing all data elements required by the different EU Member States. The advantage is that customers that have to send ENS to multiple Member States can use this single message format, where Descartes translated this into the data format of the specific Member State.

Key features:

- **Networked platform (Descartes GLN or Global Logistics Network)** – the ICS solution uses the Descartes GLN for all communications with the customs authorities and with the economic operators. This platform enables increased supply chain visibility and as well data mapping tools, while supporting industry standards on information exchange for improved data quality and integration. Descartes' GLN is the largest logistics messaging network in the world collaborating in more than 160 countries, and connects over 35,000 Organizations.
- **Single electronic access point** via Descartes global filer– Automatically manages data formatting to government standards, information distribution/routing and compliance.
- **Standard and consistent user interface** – Reduces training requirements while potentially improving accuracy and efficiency.
- **Comprehensive data validation** – Mitigates data errors and delays related to inaccurate or missing data.
- **Collaborative data collection** – Provides a flexible environment for multiple trading partners.
- **Standard structured messaging** – Accepts complete and incomplete data from operational applications using a variety of business documents.
- **Advanced alerting and events management** – Notifies users of missing or erroneous data early in the supply chain cycle to reduce the risk of potential delays, as well as alerting parties of impending timelines.

- **Lights out integration** – Improves data integrity and reduces data entry requirements for faster turnaround.
- **Business rule engine** – Determines required filings and where data can be reused for multiple filing requirements, as well as the completeness of filings upon receipt.
- **Centralized data store** – Centralizes all filings and compliance agency responses to enable comprehensive audit and reporting capabilities.
- **User-friendly dashboard** – Supports operational exception management.
- **Global filing reporting** – Includes archived filing documents, status messaging and complete transaction audit.
- **Role-based access control** – Ensures data integrity and security.

Key Potential Benefits:

- **Reduced risk, improved compliance** – Descartes ICS enables carriers to comply with current legislative requirements while mitigating the risk of errors, delays and penalties.
- **Improved efficiency and productivity** – Carriers can leverage a single point of access to manage their data entry and filing requirements, regardless of the designated EU destination. Descartes ICS also addresses the various compliance requirements associated with different modes of transport including short/long haul flights, roads, inland waterways, etc.
- **Global visibility** – Users gain complete real-time global visibility into the customs status of cargo, and can leverage the Descartes GLN to distribute customs messages and status information to logistics partners and clients regardless of their location.
- **Rapid deployment, reduced cost** – Descartes' modular solutions can be deployed quickly to deliver rapid returns on investment using a proven phased approach supported by value-based metrics and validation.
- **Proven performance** – A majority of the data required in an ICS filing already flows through the Descartes GLN and can be easily modified to meet current legislative requirements.
- **Industry experience** – Descartes has the operational, project management and regional expertise to help customers satisfy their workflow requirements for customs declarations and security filings

**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 ICS SEAP**

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