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INDUSTRY NEWS

NEW FLUENSEE APPLICATION HELPS SHIPPERS BETTER MANAGE YARD ENVIRONMENTS AND INVENTORY

BY JEFF BERMAN, SENIOR EDITOR

ATLANTA and DENVER—Fluensee, a provider of RFID-enabled asset management and supply chain technology services, recently announced it has introduced a new version of Fluensee Yard, its Web-based yard management platform.

The company said this new version is comprised of augmented planning, management, and RFID visibility capabilities that enable shippers to manage large and complex yard environments.

Fluensee Vice President of Operations Chris Brumett told Logistics Management at the recent eyefortransport 3PL Summit in Atlanta, Georgia that the main driver for this upgrade was to improve the user interface, such as enhanced graphics and a better user interface to help shippers manage real-time location system (RTLS) capabilities to manage and track trailers and containers in yards.

“This version provides better visibility into appointments and carrier and inventory management,” said Brumett.

He explained that one of the ‘pain points’ in yard management include manual time-consuming processes for inventory management in yards. As an example, he cited a customer that reduced its manual paper-based yard inventory manage-

ment processes from four-to-six hours per day to less than 30 minutes per day with this upgraded version of Fluensee Yard.

“[For that shipper] we put the technology on the yard truck for them to track inventory,” said Brumett.

Another facet of this version, said, Brumett, is its core utilization of dock locations, which takes on added importance at large facilities with several dock doors. He pointed to a large, Canada-based customer with 175 dock doors with roughly 400 trucks coming in and out of its yard on a daily basis. Fluensee Yard has helped this shipper provide visibility to what is in the dock door, when it is leaving, the utilization of a specific dock door, among other things.

Other components include carrier scheduling and alerts that tell carriers when trailers are available, visibility to inventory and equipment across all yards, inbound and outbound gate management.

“The way we look at our technology is that a trailer or a power unit is an asset,” said Brumett. “We provide all the functionality to support the management of that asset—such as how many times it has been used, current location, and last driver—and we also tie the commodity to

the trailer and use the commodity to drive the business process.”

The main features and enhancements of this version of Fluensee Yard for shippers, anyone in a distribution center environment, and transportation carriers include:

- enhanced real-time location system capability and user interfaces
- comprehensive carrier appointment management
- advanced charting functionality to allow users to create their own customized reports
- subscription-based alerts

As far as how this version of Fluensee Yard will help users on a daily basis, Brumett said improved productivity leads the pack with its yard inventory capabilities that provide real-time visibility into what is in a yard at any given moment. Other key points, he cited, were better customer service, due to users no longer having to worry about having product in the yard and shipping orders short, because inventory was miscalculated. Another factor was removing detention charges, because of the alerts to application sends to carriers, telling them that trailers are empty or ready to be moved.

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