

Acres & Acres Supply Chain Consulting
“Annual Report” 2007

Acres & Acres Supply Chain Consulting is now well into its 4th year of operation since sole proprietor Bill Acres stepped away from the corporate logistics world and senior management positions in favour of a more “doing” role providing independent consulting advice to supply chain organisations. His previous 21 years in corporate logistics had covered roles in analysis, solution design, business development, operations and account management.

Since then Bill has built a varied portfolio of work in project management, training, strategic consulting and practical advice for logistics businesses. This has fulfilled Bill’s need to use all those skills developed over nearly 25 years in the logistics industry.

The website www.acresandacres.co.uk serves to showcase the core offerings of A&ASCC.

Bill has sought to work both in the international and local national market, by working with fellow consultants in established logistics and general consultancies. This enables him to complement the skills of others on broader jobs whilst also accessing the expertise of specialists to provide best advice on logistics projects.

Examples of 2007 projects carried out are:

A major system implementation of a WMS for a national DC linked to a new merchandising suite for a retailer in the fashion sector. Assistance in project management, installation and implementation have been provided to move a shoe industry NDC from a poor quality legacy system onto a modern merchandising linked warehouse management system suitable for an industry leader despatching products to the demanding retail sector. As part of the project RF technology was installed for the first time providing massive improvements in accuracy and efficiency. Both WMS and merchandising systems were provided as part of this £1.5m+ budget “single systems” project. A new DC operating environment was created with new layout and business processes following several months of initial work covered all project aspects from business process mapping to detailed operational planning for startup. The systems went live in November 2007 and Bill has led the implementation, transition of business from the old system, and the ongoing optimisation of the operation. Within 2 weeks of go-live the DC was achieving greater volume throughput and productivity than with the previous system, and the DC is well placed to capitalise on the greater functionality of its new system to the advantage of both client and 3rd party provider.

Major DC outsource tender in the entertainment sector

Acres & Acres were appointed to manage the tendering process for a major new NDC in the entertainment retail sector. A full profile specification was produced and a comprehensive bidding process conducted to establish the best 3PL partner to operate the facility. This has enabled the client to evaluate the strengths of all realistic partners for both DC operations and transport to store, and to consider that against in house options. The conclusions will drive a major project in the near future to build this entirely new operating model.

Supply Chain review and supervision of outsourcing

Bill has during 2007 worked with a manufacturer in the food sector to review their current supply chain completely and provide advice on best actions to optimise it.

This involved a careful review of all inbound and outbound warehouse operations and the transport services that supported them. A comprehensive business profile was created and a series of recommendations as to how the supply chain could be improved in sensibly phased projects to achieve short and long term aims. The client has opted to outsource some of their logistics operations which will be implemented in early 2008 with assistance from Acres & Acres.

Management Development Programmes

Despite a very busy year in 2007 Bill is hoping to launch a new company in 2008; **Canongate Learning Ltd**, which will provide structured management development programmes for supply chain managers. Focussed on 3 key phases in managers careers, part bespoke programmes for New Graduates, "Grad plus 2 yrs" (to aid retention & development), and "Mature/Mid Manager" schemes will be offered in 2008. These company specific programmes will include training, workshops, placements and (optionally) study tours to ensure a results based practical development experience. All are designed to promote a lifelong Continuing Professional Development ethos for the benefit of individual and employer alike. If this concept is of interest to you, please make contact on the numbers below.

Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport

Bill also maintains a significant voluntary element to his activities, with his involvement in the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport. Bill is West Midlands Regional Chairman as well as being a national Board member and trustee. Additionally Bill is to be a director of the Institutes subsidiary trading company, CILT(UK) Services Ltd in 2008. CILT has always been a means of enhancing knowledge and keeping abreast of industry developments for the benefit of current & future clients.

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