

Acres & Acres Supply Chain Consulting
“Annual Report” 2013

Acres & Acres Supply Chain Consulting was founded in 2004 as an independent consultancy for the supply chain sector. In 2012, Bill Acres became a Director of Bisham Consulting, an 11 person supply chain consultancy, with a view to working on bigger and more international projects with consultants of different specialities. All consulting work of Acres & Acres was conducted through Bisham, with only training and lecturing work handled separately. In early 2013, Bill resigned his directorship to return to independent consulting revitalising the Acres & Acres name in the consulting field.

Paradoxically, the return to independent status provided one of the most varied portfolios of work in project management, training, strategic consulting and practical advice in 2013 and ensured that all Bill's skills developed over 30 years in the logistics industry were well utilised.

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

Examples of 2013 projects carried out are:

Project Management of major WMS installation and DC opening.

Acres & Acres were asked to project manage a failing WMS installation for a leading fashion brand. Taking on the existing project team, following a problematic go live, Bill led the team through a complete re-launch of the project. The immediate measures taken protected the brands critical pre-Christmas trading period and assisted the new operations team to deliver a successful season. Bill and the team planned and implemented the systems to support a completely new DC operation, which was implemented faultlessly without impact to trading. This activity involved working closely with the WMS provider (and many contractors), the operations team and senior management.

Following Christmas, the WMS project was re-planned to structure the systems solution correctly for the new operating scenario, and this was enacted over the following 3 months. As part of this process processes were evaluated, documented and matched to the appropriate system solution. Work with the merchandise system provider improved interfaces both internally and externally.

Operational review and outsourcing advice for a well-known charity.

Bill was asked to review supply chain operations for the trading company of a well-known charity to ensure best efficiency and maximum returns for the organisation. Following this short project, assistance was given in evaluation of 3rd party options and evaluation of business cases.

Supply Chain Review for a specialist food distributor

A&ASCC were asked to review the whole supply chain for a supplier of specialist foods to the highly competitive grocery sector. In this brief exercise, the processes and cost base of the operation were evaluated and advice provided regarding strategic direction and practical actions for the business.

Wide ranging support for a building supplies distributor

Bill has worked with this client throughout the year to achieve a range of objectives to optimise warehouse operations. Processes and warehouse layout have been evaluated, and a range of initiatives implemented to improve efficiency. A set of KPIs were devised to more accurately measure operating performance and this has supported improvements in shift patterns, labour efficiency and productivity. Additional capital investments have been made, and are planned for future years. Bill will continue to support this client during 2014 to achieve their medium term supply chain plans, including enhancement of their current WMS system.

Strategic regional review for a hardware retailer

Bill was invited to assist a major 3PL to review the supply chain operations of a current client and major home ware retailer. Working with the client, a high level analysis of their business was conducted to advise them how to best support their UK regional growth. Innovative solutions were suggested and proposals made to support long term plans for client and logistics provider.

Visiting Lectureship at Warwick University

Bill continues for a 4th year to lecture at Warwick University on MSc Full & Part time courses in the area of Inventory Management. Several courses have been delivered to large groups from hugely diverse international backgrounds.

Warehouse review for prestige department store

The logistic provider to this prestige client asked Acres & Acres to conduct a warehouse review to ensure best value and maximum efficiency. Processes and layout were reviewed and recommendations made to support the growth of the business in the coming years. A new layout to maximise location capacity was devised, along with new process flows.

New supply chain model for national retailer

Acres & Acres have worked with a national retailer to evaluate if a centralised distribution centre model would benefit their costs and profitability. Working from client data and with their support a cost benefit exercise was conducted to justify a model change from one where suppliers deliver directly to all stores, to one where all receipt, processing and consolidated deliveries are handled centrally. The client has been supported and advised throughout the exercise to ultimately support them through the process.

Management Development Programmes:

Canongate Learning Ltd, continues to offer structured management development programmes for supply chain managers. Company specific programmes include training, workshops and placements 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 continues to maintain a significant voluntary element to his activities, with his involvement in the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport. Bill retired during 2013 as UK Board member and Trustee, but remains active in Birmingham & Coventry Group as well as being Immediate Past Chairman of West Midlands Region.

He has always believed CILT to be an unrivalled way of enhancing knowledge and keeping abreast of industry developments for the benefit of current & future clients.

Bill Acres, FCILT, Director

Telephone: 01527 854571
Mobile: 07867 788959
Email: bill@acresandacres.co.uk