



Why end-to-end SCM is better in the end: One-stop-shop ASSIST4

Powerful supply chain management (SCM) and global trade management (GTM) solutions have become essential when it comes to taking the leap from simply reacting to customer demand and struggling to fulfil delivery promises, to pro-actively managing a transparent and integrated supply chain network that continuously increases its performance, facilitates business growth and keeps a competitive edge.

With uncertain economic environments, fluctuating markets and volatile conditions, today's increasingly complex global supply chains need to be both flexible enough to adapt to fluctuations and react to disruptions, and stable enough to increase quality and customer satisfaction levels. Striking the right balance is a tremendous challenge, particularly while also minimising risks and reducing costs.

Technology driven supply chain efficiency improvements can start in a variety of areas – carrier selections, warehousing strategies, customs compliance, to name but a few. Priorities depend on who you are talking to, e.g. shipping, warehouse or compliance managers. Each area has its own perspective and individual needs, but it all comes down to this: End-to-end supply chain excellence can only be achieved when all areas and all business partners, internal and external, work together smoothly.

No matter which area of the supply chain is to be streamlined, it's important to take a step back and carefully analyse the impacts on all other areas of the supply chain before implementing new software, taking into consideration the efficiency of the entire supply chain. With this in mind, logistics software providers can typically be categorised in three different groups, each representing a different approach:

1. Logistics functionality as part of the ERP system

ERP providers, who offer software for all business areas, represent the first group. These systems' strength lies in their generalisation. The breadth of their applications, however, often comes at the cost of functional depth. It's likely that a provider delivering accounting and controlling software is less of an expert in all facets of e.g. warehousing. Additionally, many of these systems are not flexible enough in adapting to specific customer requirements within the logistics application.

2. Niche solutions, high-performing but rigid IT silos

The second group consists of highly specialised niche providers. If ERP systems take a bird's-eye view of companies, these niche systems scrutinise the respective section of the logistics operations under the magnifying glass. Their strength lies in functional depth within the

selected area. On the downside, these solutions are often classic "silos" that don't easily integrate with other systems or upstream and downstream logistics processes.

3. Special logistics and global trade solutions as part of an SCM suite

AEB is a leading provider in this third group and offers more specialised logistics and global trade solutions than the ERP providers, but much more diversified and integrated than those of niche providers. The focus is not on the overall company or on the individual logistics step alone, but on the entire logistical process chain, which has become competitive factor number one for all companies closely integrated into a collaborative supply network.

One-stop-shop ASSIST4

Developed by AEB with over 30 years of logistics software experience, the SCM and GTM solution suite ASSIST4 has grown and evolved into a one-stop-shop for global trading companies. It's tailored for businesses looking to streamline their supply chain workflows, improve regulatory compliance and maximise efficiency while cutting costs.

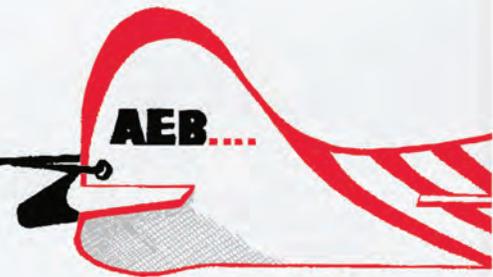
ASSIST4 goes along the logistical process, picks up the "thread" at one end (e.g. at point of order in the ERP system) and follows it across all steps to the other end (e.g. at point of delivery to the customer). ASSIST4 is suitable for all industry areas and offers special features for specific sectors, e.g. automotive and fashion retail. It supports both small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large, multinational corporations (MNCs), automating processes in both logistics execution (e.g. warehouse, transport and freight management) and regulatory compliance (e.g. special customs procedures and export control requirements).

To facilitate individual business needs, ASSIST4 offers a modular IT infrastructure, which prevents companies from ending up with features they don't require or missing out on functional depth where it's needed most. ASSIST4 also comes in different forms to seamlessly integrate into existing infrastructures: as convenient online solutions, powerful client installations or as slick SAP® integrations.

A powerful SCM and GTM suite like ASSIST4 meets the requirements of supply chains in the twenty-first century: adaptability, collaborative ability, transparency, and speed in all processes. Integration and transparency have become the foundation for actual control of today's supply chains and empower businesses to react to volatile market conditions and all kinds of supply chain disruptions from natural disasters to industrial actions.



■ Ready for take-off: SCM & GTM with AEB



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ASSIST4 is the one-stop-shop to streamline logistics operations, ensure global trade compliance, reduce costs and maximise supply chain performance.



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