

Rhenus Automotive Logistics – Global Production Networks Firmly in View

Three major trends have emerged in the automobile industry during the last few years. Innovation cycles have become shorter, value creation has increasingly shifted from manufacturers to suppliers and at the same time, globalization has prolonged supply chains. This has led to growth in the demand for logistics services, which optimize the complete process chain at home and abroad.

In its capacity as a logistics service provider with many years' experience in this sector, Rhenus works for almost all the well-known vehicle manufacturers and suppliers. Rhenus provides them with solutions, which are based on standardized tools, but are implemented in an individual manner. The high degree of efficiency and flexibility at Rhenus Automotive is reflected in the growth achieved during the past few years – between 15 and 20 percent per annum.

By integrating all the business areas in the Rhenus Group, the company is able to assist and support customers along the complete supply chain: from material purchases to material supplies and empties management and even warehousing and distribution. Rhenus Automotive can provide all these services in isolation or in any combination.

Most companies purchase their materials from all over the globe nowadays. Requirements and procurement logistics have constantly grown as a result of global sourcing. Rhenus is able to provide multi-modal solutions for the automobile industry through its subsidiary Contargo, which organizes container stuffing, container management and intermediate storage. Rhenus Freight Logistics is a capable company within the Group for handling challenging Freight Logistics tasks, particularly in the field of procurement logistics.

The procurement warehouses in the automobile sector are either supplier/logistic centers or system centers. One of the core skills at Rhenus Automotive involves operating these warehouses. The freight containers are unloaded at the procurement warehouses and the goods are checked in line with quality guidelines, declared to the customs, if necessary, and then stored until the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) issues a warehouse release order. Once this arrives, the goods are picked for just-in-time delivery according to needs and they are fed on to the factory supply process.

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Material supplies, which Rhenus Automotive handles separately or in conjunction with a supplier logistics centre, come under the heading: factory logistics. Rhenus manages the incoming goods and internal transport services and so is able to supply the requested goods directly to the manufacturing location. Most of the materials are supplied to the conveyor belt in reusable containers. Rhenus then collects the empty containers from the manufacturing process, cleans, stacks and sorts them before they are fed back to the supplier again.

The services provided at system centers are similar along the process chain. But some working stages may be inserted. For example, the bumpers for vehicles at the systems center in Györ (Hungary) are requested, picked, pre-assembled, checked for quality and then supplied directly to the conveyor belt as just-in-sequence deliveries. Rhenus Freight Logistics normally coordinates the worldwide transportation and just-in-time and just-in-sequence deliveries.

Russia is particularly part of the strategic focus for business developments at the moment. Rhenus manages almost the complete process chain here and handles transportation, customs formalities and warehousing for SKD (semi knocked down) and MKD (medium knocked down) vehicle components for a major OEM in Kaluga and part-by-part handling for an OEM in St. Petersburg. The materials are provided at the manufacturing location on a just-in-sequence basis for both projects. Rhenus Revival is the specialist company able to provide distribution services for individual customers in Russia and it can also handle the after-sales and spare parts business.

About Rhenus

The Rhenus Group is one of the leading logistics specialists with global business operations and annual turnover amounting to EUR 5.4 billion. 33,500 employees work at 820 business sites and develop innovative solutions along the complete supply chain. Whether providing transport, warehousing, customs clearance or value-added services, the family business pools its operations in various business units where the needs of customers are the major focus at all times.

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