

Two yellow industrial robotic arms are positioned on either side of the central text. The arm on the left is in a curved, reaching position, while the arm on the right is more upright. They are set against a blue background with a faint world map and grid lines.

THE RHENUS ROUTE

CUSTOMER SUCCESS IN THE AMERICAS

KAUTEX: OCEAN FREIGHT CONSOLIDATION MAKES TRANSATLANTIC LOGISTICS MORE EFFICIENT

THE CHALLENGES

-  Improve efficiencies when shipping from multiple suppliers
-  Extend the European road transportation solution to the Americas
-  Reduce the use of LCL shipments from Europe

THE SITUATION

Founded in 1935, [Kautex](#) is a tier one supplier to global OEMs, primarily of plastic fuel system solutions for the automotive industry. It employs over 6,000 people across more than 30 plants worldwide.

A long-standing partner, Rhenus developed a bespoke European road transportation solution for Kautex. This includes fixed loading dates to co-ordinate pick-ups from suppliers that are shared across plants, and agreed transit times across the continent. Supplies for multiple plants are transported to a Rhenus distribution centre, eliminating the need to continuously return to suppliers to pick-up for individual plants.

HOW RHENUS HELPED

Kautex wanted to replicate this efficiency for shipments to the Americas - spanning the US, Canada, Mexico and Brazil. Approximately 10-15% of supplies for plants in these countries were arriving from European partners, so utilising the established road network to consolidate these shipments made sense.

Moving away from a supplier by supplier, Less-than-container Load (LCL), model in the Americas could also revolutionise operational efficiency in the region. Rhenus Air and Ocean assessed how the European transportation system could be maximised for the Americas.

Hilden, in Germany, became the designated centre of operations, due to its proximity to seaports in Antwerp and Rotterdam, and airports in Düsseldorf & Frankfurt. Supplies for the Americas would be transported by road to Hilden at the same time as supplies for Europe, and then shipped across the Atlantic.

Purpose-built shipping containers enable multiple supplies to be shipped concurrently, using Full Container Loads (FCL). This improves time and cost efficiencies significantly. Containers are shipped weekly or bi-weekly, to one plant in the US, and two plants in Mexico.

READ MORE ABOUT THE WORLDWIDE SERVICES OFFERED BY RHENUS:

www.rhenus.group



“ IT’S REALLY IMPORTANT TO KNOW AT A PART-LEVEL DETAIL WHAT WE HAVE IN TRANSIT. ”

Tony Kizzee

Senior Specialist for Logistics and Customs at Kautex

WHY TAKE THE RHENUS ROUTE?

Rhenus provides full visibility on what is being shipped and when. Kautex receives a weekly report, down to part-level and quantities, so it can forecast accurately. Alerts and updates, e.g. if a vessel doesn’t sail on time, enables the company to make contingency plans.

As volumes increase, Kautex is investigating the opening of a US consolidation point with Rhenus, where all supplies can be brought into a single distribution centre before being transported across the Americas to improve efficiencies further.