

Acres & Acres Supply Chain Consulting
“Annual Report” 2006

Acres & Acres Supply Chain Consulting has operated now since July 2004, when sole proprietor Bill Acres parted amicably from Healthcare Logistics where he was Customer Services Director. 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 23 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 Bill 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 2006 projects carried out are:

A major greenfield factory and ambient warehouse development in the food sector, where assistance in project management, procurement, installation and implementation have been provided to create a 43k pallet ambient primary storage warehouse despatching products to the demanding retail sector. Both MHE and racking solutions were provided as part of this £40m+ budget project. A high bay VNA operating environment supported by bussbar powered combi trucks was installed. 18 months of initial work covered all project aspects from business process mapping to detailed operational planning for startup. The warehouse went live in November 2005 and Bill has supported the implementation, transition of business from the old site, and the ongoing optimisation of the operation. Following a number of additional projects for this client including LGV implementation and automatic loading & unloading, Bill is finally leaving the client in November 2006, nearly two and a half years after first contact.

ERP and WMS

Not only was the physical warehouse developed but a new ERP system was specified and sourced for the business along with a new Warehouse Management System incorporating RF scanning.

Chilled warehouse implementation

As well as creating the ambient warehouse operation, a chilled warehouse with 15k pallet capacity was designed, built and implemented. Specified with wide aisle APR, and drive in racking this high volume, high throughput facility was opened within 18 months of first design. Working with the outsourced 3rd party provider, the startup phase was achieved seamlessly, again installing a new Warehouse Management system from day 1.

Supply Chain review and supervision of outsourcing

Bill has during 2006 worked with another manufacturer in the food sector to review their current supply chain completely and provide advice on best actions to optimise it. Evaluating all options with the client to:

1. Measure the 3PL finished goods operation, and benchmark to establish best value & service
2. Consider the insourcing of raw materials storage (with local grant assistance) to create space in production and secure supply
3. Evaluate the costs and benefits of insourcing all logistics activities and recommend actions
4. Consider both dedicated inhouse and 3PL partnered operations
5. Run an RFQ process to establish “best fit” suppliers
6. Manage the change process of moving to a new provider, both practically and administratively.

The client finally opted for an outsourced finished goods operation which will be implemented in early 2007. Project management commenced in Autumn 2006. Other services may be transferred in a phased process in the coming months.

Management Development Programmes

Bill is also about to launch a new company; **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 starting in 2007. 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. CILT has always been a means of enhancing knowledge and keeping abreast of industry developments.

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