

**Acres & Acres Supply Chain Consulting**  
**“Annual Report” 2008**

Acres & Acres Supply Chain Consulting is now well into its 5<sup>th</sup> year of operation since sole proprietor Bill Acres stepped away from the corporate logistics world and senior management positions in favour of providing independent consulting advice to supply chain organisations.

Since then Bill has built a varied portfolio of work in project management, training, strategic consulting and practical advice for logistics businesses using all those skills developed over 25 years in the logistics industry.

The website [www.acresandacres.co.uk](http://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 him 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 2008 projects carried out are:**

**A major WMS implementation at a national DC linked to a new merchandising suite for a retailer in the fashion sector.** Following a similar successful project in 2007 Bill was retained to project manage, install and implement a new RF driven WMS. This major UK womenswear retailer operates 2 of the leading high street brands from a UK NDC and sought to upgrade to a modern merchandising linked warehouse management system suitable for an industry leader. As part of the project RF technology was installed throughout DC processes providing improvements in accuracy and reporting. A new DC operating layout and business process was created. Project aspects included business process mapping and detailed operational planning for start-up. The systems went live in July and August 2008 and Bill has led the implementation, transition of business from the old system, and the ongoing optimisation of the operation. Also included in the implementation were an E- Commerce operation run from common inventory within the DC. Despite the challenging trading conditions now facing high street retail, the DC is now well placed to provide industry leading service. The implementation of single systems across brands will enable flexible use of all supply chain resources to the advantage of both client and 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider.

**MSc Distance E Learning materials in Supply Chain produced for a UK university**

Bill wrote a number of modules for a new MSc course in Logistics & Supply Chain offered by a Midlands university during 2008. The E Learning materials were delivered, incorporated into the course and well received by students.

**Stock Loss Review for food manufacturer and retailer**

Acres & Acres were invited to conduct a process and systems review for a well known food manufacturer and retailer to determine their level of control over stock loss in the supply chain and retail estate. The exercise involved an audit of all company systems from manufacturing, through warehouse and transport to the companies' stores to assess their strength along with the operating processes used. Although no major issues were found to cause audit concern, recommendations were made as to the system, reporting and process changes required to achieve improved inventory control throughout. The conclusions will enable projects in the near future to increase control and reduce loss.

### **Training materials for the worlds leading MHE supplier**

Bill was in 2008 invited to create training materials for the Worlds largest supplier of materials handling equipment in order to assist their sales professionals to become “trusted business advisors”. The objective of the training is to increase the effectiveness of sales staff, raising them from being expert product providers to become advisors able to provide guidance as to how the companies’ products can improve productivity, reduce cost and increase efficiency within their clients’ logistics operations.

### **Supply Chain review and transport mini tender**

Bill has continued to work with a manufacturer in the food sector during the year to review their current supply chain and provide advice on best actions to optimise it.

Following a careful review of inbound and outbound warehouse operations and the transport services used, a mini tender process was agreed for transport operations. The existing provider and 3 alternative suppliers were invited to bid and those responses reviewed for the client.

### **Warehouse operations review for increased capacity**

Acres & Acres were asked to review warehouse operations at the interface of production with primary storage for another food manufacturer. The interaction of automated and semi-automated equipment was evaluated including laser guided vehicles (LGVs), VNA combi trucks and an automatic vehicle loading system (AVLS) with a view to optimising throughput. A capital proposal was created and costed. This will form the basis of a future project.

### **E Commerce insource to client DC**

Having outsourced E Commerce fulfilment to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party since its entry into online retailing some years ago, a major fashion client sought to bring operations in-house and save considerable cost. With similar multi channel operations already operating from a single DC inventory it was considered timely to return a further 4 brands to in-house operation. Acres & Acres were asked to support the stock transfer and interface with the 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider, given their experience in similar transfers and start-ups. Bill is looking forward to the successful completion of this project in early 2009.

### **Management Development Programmes**

**Canongate Learning Ltd**, was launched as planned in 2008 to provide structured management development programmes for supply chain managers. Company specific programmes will 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 also maintains a significant voluntary element to his activities, with his involvement in the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport. Bill remains West Midlands Regional Chairman as well as being a national Board member and trustee. Additionally Bill is a director of the Institutes subsidiary trading company, CILT(UK) Services Ltd.

Finally, Bill was awarded a Chartered Fellowship of the Institute in late 2008 completing his path to the highest level of CILT membership and a reflection of seniority in the profession.

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, Director**

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