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2/29/2012 Study Says Last Mile Visibility a Growing Focus in Intermodal

Carriers and 3PLs are increasingly working together to use technology to eliminate blind spots in the movement of containers in the last mile - the final customer destination. So says a new report, [Intermodal Optimization - Enhancing Last Mile Visibility and Execution](#), just published by the [Aberdeen Group](#).

Commissioned by cloud transportation technology provider IAS, the report surveys 58 intermodal freight users out of 123 North American BCOs, 3PLs and carriers first interviewed for Aberdeen's August 2011 study [Integrated Transportation in a Capacity Constrained Global Market](#). The goal was to analyze how challenges intermodal users face differed from their single-mode counterparts, how they were coping with current global intermodal requirements and what technology strategies were being adopted in response.

Compared to the others, intermodal users - companies moving containers to and from ocean ports and rail ramps, mainly as part of international shipments - face more complex requirements. These include not only coordinating equipment and container movements from port, rail, truck and inland customer delivery locations, but also the tracking and return of the containers to the port designated by the container owner. The challenge is magnified by the lengthening of global container supply chains, says the report.

Intermodal users are three times more likely to have automated the exchange of information, 2.9 times more likely to scorecard transportation activities and 1.6 times more likely to have visibility tools to support backhauling against empty miles, finds the report. Yet, "although they can be characterized as 'early adopters' of automated data exchange compared with single mode users, still only 57% of the intermodal users in the study had visibility and optimization tools in place to manage last mile execution," says report author Bob Heaney, Aberdeen senior research analyst, supply chain management.

The report highlights the particular challenges of improving visibility in North American operations due to the many parties controlling first and last mile deliveries to shipper/3PL distribution centers, including a large pool of independent motor carriers. Based on its research findings, Aberdeen recommends the use of existing collaborative cloud-based platforms as the swiftest and most flexible route to bring all the relevant partners onboard and achieve the required levels of visibility.

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Intermodal: Related News

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5/10/2012 - Pacer Announces Agreement with CSX Pacer International entered into a new multi-year agreement with CSX Transportation, under which CSX will continue as Pacer's primary rail carrier in the Eastern U.S.... [More >](#)

5/9/2012 - Domestic Intermodal Container Volume Surges 14.9% in First Quarter Domestic container volume gained a "remarkable" 14.9% in the first quarter compared to a year ago, according to the Intermodal Association of North America's Intermodal Market Trends & Statistics report.... [More >](#)

4/24/2012 - NS, KCS Partner for US-Mexico Container Program Norfolk Southern Railway and Kansas City Southern Railway have partnered to offer TMX, a new 53-foot rail-controlled container program between the U.S. and Mexico.... [More >](#)

4/19/2012 - Containerized Exports Jumped 9.6% in February After 1.9% growth in January, U.S. containerized exports surged in February, rising 9.6% year-over-year and 4% from the previous month. The total February volume - measured in 20-foot equivalent container units - was 1,014,176 TEUs... [More >](#)

4/16/2012 - Port Drivers for Toll Group Vote to Unionize Toll Group in Southern California will now be one of the few U.S. harbor fleets with drivers that are unionized after a 46-15 vote last week to join the Teamsters union. The election was sanctioned by the National Labor Relations Board.... [More >](#)

4/12/2012 - Port of Long Beach, OOCL Sign \$4.6 Billion, 40-Year Lease Agreement The [Port of Long Beach](#) and shipping company [Orient Overseas Container Line](#) signed a \$4.6 billion, 40-year lease agreement this week for OOCL to lease the port's new [Middle Harbor](#), currently under construction.... [More >](#)

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INDUSTRY

[Freightliner Presents Ride of Pride Trucks to Schneider and Cargo Transporters](#)

4/4/2012 - Rail Logistics-Cold Train and Interstate Distributor Co. Partner for Dedicated Drayage Fleet [Rail Logistics-Cold Train](#) and [Interstate Distributor Co.](#) announced a new partnership in which Cold Train will use a dedicated fleet of trucks from Interstate Distributor for short-haul drayage service to and from the [Port of Quincy Intermodal Terminal](#) in Washington State.... [More >](#)

3/26/2012 - Old Dominion Opens Second California Container Drayage Facility Following a 35% increase in container drayage shipments nationwide during the first quarter of 2012, [Old Dominion Freight Line](#) opened its second container drayage facility in California.... [More >](#)

3/1/2012 - Boyd Unveils 'Groundbreaking' Flatbed Intermodal Innovation Boyd Intermodal this week unveiled a new intermodal innovation allowing double-stacking of flatbed freight on the rails.... [More >](#)

2/29/2012 - Study Says Last Mile Visibility a Growing Focus in Intermodal Carriers and 3PLs are increasingly working together to use technology to eliminate blind spots in the movement of containers in the last mile - the final customer destination. So says a new report, [Intermodal Optimization - Enhancing Last Mile Visibility and Execution](#), just published by the [Aberdeen Group](#).... [More >](#)

2/16/2012 - Short-Haul Truckers Return to Work at Port of Seattle About 400 truckers decided to end their walkout and return to work after two weeks of [protesting unfair treatment](#) from trucking firms, reports [The Seattle Times](#).... [More >](#)

2/16/2012 - Retail Container Traffic to Increase in First Half of 2012 Import cargo volume at the nation's major retail container ports is expected to be down 6.8% in February from a year ago, but it should show year-over-year increases through most of the remaining first half of 2012.... [More >](#)

2/15/2012 - Panama Canal Expansion Will Likely First Affect New York-to-Ohio-Valley Intermodal Increased intermodal traffic from the New York/Baltimore area ports to the Ohio River Valley region will likely be the first effect when the Panama Canal opens its new, larger locks in late 2014, according to Scudder Smith, a consultant who has advised the U.S. Maritime Administration and the Panama Canal Authority.... [More >](#)

2/14/2012 - Seattle Port Truckers Continue to Fight Poor Working Conditions About 300 truckers, unionists and supporters protested at the Port of Seattle Monday morning at a rally along the Duwamish Waterway in Seattle. The rally was part of an effort among Seattle port drivers to call attention to poor working conditions and wages as well as safety violations... [More >](#)

2/8/2012 - Maersk to Sell Direct ChassisLink [Maersk Inc.](#) announced an agreement to sell its subsidiary Maersk Equipment Services Company, doing business as [Direct ChassisLink Inc.](#), to [Littlejohn & Co.](#), a private investment firm.... [More >](#)

2/3/2012 - 2011 Record-Setting Year for Intermodal Container Volume Intermodal container volume set a new record in 2011 with 12.4 million moves, beating former record-year 2007 by 3.7%, according to [Intermodal Association of North America's Intermodal Market Trends & Statistics](#) report.... [More >](#)

2/2/2012 - Cool Cargoes Track at TPM Conference to Highlight Range of Refrigerated Transport Issues The first ever [Cool Cargoes track](#) at the [2012 TPM conference](#) March 5-6 in Long Beach, Calif., will focus on the growth and capacity issues of the global cold chain.... [More >](#)

1/30/2012 - ASF Intermodal Exceeds 100 Trucks On the Road [ASF Intermodal](#), Mobile, Ala., has exceeded 100 trucks on the road, which it calls a major milestone in the intermodal drayage industry.... [More >](#)

1/20/2012 - Extension of Double-Stack Heartland Corridor Reduces Transit Time [Norfolk Southern](#) has opened an extension of the [Heartland Corridor](#), a newly improved double-stack rail line between Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio.... [More >](#)

1/20/2012 - IWLA Opposes Bill to Ban Independent Truckers from Ports The International Warehouse Logistics Association joined other logistics industry associations in writing a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) urging him to oppose a bill that would close the U.S. ports to independent truck owner-operators.... [More >](#)

1/17/2012 - Retail Container Traffic Flat in January, Expected to Resume in Spring Now that the holiday shopping season is over, import cargo volume at the nation's major retail container ports is expected to be nearly flat in January compared to January 2011.... [More >](#)

1/13/2012 - President of Tennessee Express Elected 2012 IANA Chairman The [Intermodal Association of North America's](#) board of directors announced that Dave Manning, long-time IANA member and president of Tennessee Express Inc., was elected as the association's new chairman.... [More >](#)

12/29/2011 - Containerized Exports up 5.8%, Asian Imports Almost Flat U.S. international containerized trade grew about 3.7% in 2011, a sharp slowdown from double-digit gains from the year before, according to preliminary figures from PIERS.... [More >](#)

12/22/2011 - Containerized Exports Drop U.S. containerized exports dropped 3% year-over-year in October after a strong third quarter, an abrupt brake that included the first decline in motor vehicle exports in more than a year, reported [The Journal of Commerce/PIERS](#).... [More >](#)

12/19/2011 - Schneider Taking Focused Approach to Training Intermodal Drivers Schneider National, Green Bay, Wis., says it will unveil a "focused new approach" to training its Intermodal truck drivers in 2012 with the opening of a new Training Academy in Chicago.... [More >](#)

12/14/2011 - Holiday Shipping Season to End on an Up Note Import cargo volume at the nation's major retail container ports should be up 0.3% in December compared with the same month last year as retailers head to the finish line of the holiday shopping season.... [More >](#)

12/13/2011 - 'Occupy' Protesters Target Ports There were protests and even some arrests Monday at West Coast ports as the anti-Wall Street movement hit tried to slow down container traffic.... [More >](#)

12/9/2011 - TOFC still going strong Don't expect trailer-on-flatcar to go away anytime soon, but expect it to increasingly be via 53-foot trailers.... [More >](#)

12/5/2011 - Georgia DOT Awards Contract for Port of Savannah Connector The Port of Savannah's long-anticipated Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Connector, linking the Port directly to Interstate 95, got a big boost last week with the awarding of a \$73 million contract for its construction.... [More >](#)

11/29/2011 - Occupy Movement Targets West Coast Ports The Occupy movement says it will sponsor demonstrations at several coastal port facilities, with the intention being to shut down all of the major gateways.... [More >](#)

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