

One millionth transaction processed using online vendor resource

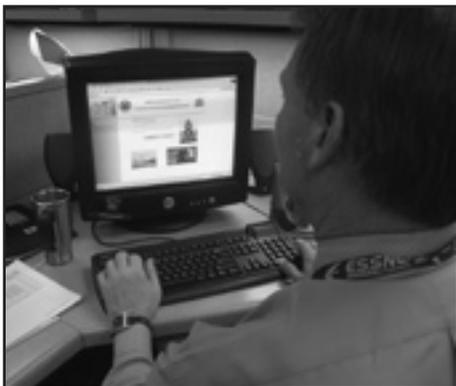
By Jessica Walter, DDC Command Affairs

The one millionth transaction using the Distribution Standard System – Vendor Module (DSS-VM) was processed Dec. 15 for repair parts sent to Army customers in Qatar.

Wisconsin-based Bentley World-Packaging Ltd. sent the shipment of hose assemblies using DSS-VM, a web-based system that expedites shipments to America’s Warfighters by enabling vendors to access updated customer addresses and print military shipping labels on-site.

DSS-VM is a component of the Distribution Planning and Management System (DPMS) that manages the movement of products from vendors and distribution centers to customers for optimum speed of delivery and visibility of assets during shipment.

The package was routed through the Defense Distribution Center’s (DDC) East Coast Strategic Distribution Platform (Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.) to be placed on an air pallet for transfer to the Middle East.



Jerry Taylor of the DDC Logistics Operations DSS-VM roll out team processed the milestone transaction in December that sent repair parts to Army customers in the Middle East.

“This resource has proven to be very beneficial to our vendors, to DLA, and most importantly, to our customers – America’s Warfighters,” said Joe Faris, Chief of DDC’s Operations Office, Logistics Operations Directorate.

The milestone transaction was processed by Jerry Taylor of the DDC Logistics Operations DSS-VM roll out team.

DSS-VM was established in 2002 and is now being used by more than 800 vendors.

DDC enhances passive RFID read capability

Hand-held readers augment existing RFID infrastructure

By Jessica Walter, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) recently added hand-held passive radio frequency identification, or RFID, readers to the organization’s existing RFID infrastructure, enabling greater RFID read capability and paving the way for the integration of passive RFID into additional distribution processes at DDC sites and in the field.

The new readers, already deployed to DDC’s two Strategic Distribution Platforms (SDPs), Defense Distribution Depots Susquehanna, Pa. (DDSP), and San Joaquin, Calif. (DDJC), allow DDC employees to read passive RFID tags anywhere in the warehouse.

“When pointed at a shipping container, the devices will interrogate passive RFID tag presence,” explained Mark Lieberman, DDC Senior Supply Management Specialist. “It allows us to take RFID read capability even into locations where RFID infrastructure is unavailable.”

The data from the tags, virtually a “license plate” identifying the cargo in the container, is stored in the hand-held device. DDC employees then upload the information into the Distribution Standard System (DSS), DDC’s warehousing and transportation system, where it is used to access additional information about the shipment.



New readers add mobility. The new hand-held readers can be taken anywhere in the warehouse and will detect the presence of passive RFID tags on shipping containers and store the information in the device.

According to Larry Loiacono, DDC’s Information Operations Wireless Team Leader, DDC’s goal is to have passive RFID tag readability at all 26 DDC sites around the world by next year, and the hand-held devices are a critical step. “We’re already using fixed RFID portals to read incoming passive tags at some sites, and the hand-held readers provide additional coverage that will bring us up to 100 percent read capability.”

As all DDC sites become capable of reading passive RFID tags, DDC will begin placing tags on outgoing cargo as early as spring 2006 – first for shipments sent

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