

SoDExI brings harmony to airport handling — AIR CARGO NEWS, JULY 10, 2009

SODEXI, the express handling division of Air France Cargo, has introduced a new system called Harmony, claiming that it is “an innovative concept to reduce waste and improve efficiency on the airport”.

The aim of the system, Sodexi claim, is to utilise under-used capacity of mobile equipment throughout airport operations.

“So often airlines and handlers continue to expand their fleets of vehicles, including tractors, loaders, mobile stairs etc. The Harmony concept pools all equipment capacity so that operators can ensure the right equipment is in place on time with no waste or duplication but an increase in profitability,” the company said in a statement.

Jean-François Bouilhaguet, managing director of Sodexi, says the initiatives have the potential to revolutionise airport handling operations not only in the Paris airports, but also at all airports and indeed other industrial sites involving fleets of mobile units.

“The key to both of these initiatives is Harmony, which encapsulates our vision of a corporate world where industry sectors and company branches work in unison, thus avoiding wasteful competition and duplication of resources.

“Harmony is at the core of

TECHNOLOGY: Sodexi says its system will use the latest technology to drive efficiencies and increase profits

Sodexi’s current express freight operation. An efficient, computer-controlled and completely paperless operation, which forms a substantial part of the Air France cargo network at Charles de Gaulle. The Harmony system will focus on utilising existing capacity and equipment rather than investing in new.

“After some seven years of development, XOPS is Sodexi’s software solution for real time control of mobile equipment in the warehouse and on the ramp. XOPS, (or Operations On Screen), functions in a number of areas. From a central monitor, it keeps visual control of vehicles and is able to instruct drivers with real time data such as an aircraft’s

late arrival or change of gate or the positioning of ramp handling equipment.

“The system can also be applied to tasks such as fuel distribution and the positioning of maintenance equipment. It can also accurately calculate charges and invoicing and at the same time perform vital security supervision.

“It’s simple in theory: the operation relies on a tight network of communication between the airlines, ground handlers, cargo forwarders and other players on the airport. The system is paperless, accessed through an internet portal or local network and allows handlers to make the best possible use of their existing equipment as ‘pooling’. It



BOUILHAGUET: Handlers can now make the best use of their equipment

is now possible, to track all movements by GPS, and monitor them on camera.”