

Nothing slows down logistics at KNORR-BREMSE

We interviewed **Jiří Rak**, Head of Warehouse Logistics, on the client side.

KNORR-BREMSE was founded in 1905 by engineer Georg Knorr. Today, it is the world's leading manufacturer of braking systems for rail and commercial vehicles. The Group employs approximately 28,000 people worldwide. **KNORR-BREMSE Systémy pro užitková vozidla ČR s.r.o.** opened its plant in Liberec in 2010.



Why did you decide to look into a system for planning loading and unloading?

The main impetus was the relocation of our shipping department to a location with heavy traffic, where there was a risk of traffic congestion. Our goal was therefore to efficiently manage vehicle arrivals and their sequence. We also wanted to link time slots with other operations.

How did you search for a time slot application?

We inquired about a competing application used by one of our business partners. At that time, you approached us with an offer of cooperation. During your presentation, you showed us that your solution could do much more, including reporting. At the same time, the application is very user-friendly.

How did the implementation of the system go? Did you encounter any problems, or did everything go according to plan?

You trained our employees who work with Time Slot Control (hereinafter TSC). At first, I was concerned that the application would be complicated, but over time it became clear that my concerns were unnecessary. I can configure most of our requirements directly in the administration interface, which has allowed us to customize the application to our needs. As a result, we were not dependent on the supplier, as is often the case with other systems we use.

What changes did you notice after implementation? Were there any benefits and advantages?

An unexpected benefit was the reduction from two shifts to one shift in two empty container warehouses. This allowed us to reduce the number of employees and handling equipment by 50%. We gained an overview of truck arrival times - we know why they are coming, how much goods to pick, and how much space to prepare for unloading. The application is used by shipping companies, dispatchers, customer service, and warehouse staff, and one of the main benefits for everyone is real-time online information. Previously, we were constantly calling and emailing each other, which was time-consuming and inefficient. This has been eliminated thanks to automated email notifications.

Do you have any figures on the savings that the TSC application generates for you? Or any other specific data on how TSC implementation has improved efficiency?

We have demonstrably saved the monthly cost of three employees in the empty packaging warehouses, as well as the cost of two units of handling equipment.

Given that we have three buildings between which we move goods, we have saved CZK 65,000 in transport costs thanks to increased efficiency of internal transport. By connecting your application to the camera system, we have terminated our cooperation with the security agency that operated four freight gates – a total saving of approximately seven gatehouse staff. Overall, we are talking about significant monthly savings.

How did your business partners, customers, and carriers adapt to the introduction of the system?

We found that many carriers were already familiar with TSC and were working with the application, which made the initial implementation much easier. We introduced the system gradually. First, we focused on inbound logistics, i.e. the delivery of materials to our plant. After the first two months, 95% of our import partners were using the application.

Export was more complicated. Initially, only 30 - 40% of carriers were booking into the system. However, we gradually persuaded other carriers to use it by consistently explaining that using the system was essential for us and communicating the benefits for them, such as not having to wait to find out when they would be dispatched. Currently, approximately 95% of all carriers and suppliers book into the system and adhere to the time windows wherever possible.

Why TSC from Lotraco?

Overall, your application was the best fit for us. It is clear that you continue to improve the application through regular updates.

How satisfied are you with the application, user interface, and technical support?

Overall, the application is very intuitive. The ability to configure it in the administration panel available to us is a great benefit. Your support is flexible and your response to requests is quick.

What benefits of TSC would you highlight?

The biggest benefit is having all online information in one place and keeping all users informed – from internal departments (logistics, sales) to freight forwarders, carriers, customers, and suppliers.

Thanks to the planning of vehicle arrivals and departures, there are no queues in front of the plant and the whole process runs smoothly. Yard management is also a major advantage – LED panels connected to TSC navigate carriers to the correct ramp, while warehouse staff have a real-time overview of the daily schedule on the Slot Monitor.

We also appreciate the option of attaching documents to reservations, such as delivery notes, which are then available to us in advance.

Would you recommend TSC to another company in your field?

Definitely yes – and we are already doing so.

MONTHLY SAVINGS

3 employees

Correctly
set shifts

2 pieces

Savings
on handling
equipment

CZK 65.000

Savings
on internal
transport costs

7 workers

Savings
on gatehouse
wages



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