

MeRS: Successful experimentation of blockchain and logistics on the Mediterranean-Rhône-Saône axis

The port of Marseille Fos hosted on 17 September 2019 the final meeting to account for the successful experimentation of Blockchain technology for the transport of freight over the Mediterranean-Rhône-Saône axis (MeRS).

Secure the transport chain.

This project, carried out by the Interministerial Delegation for the development of the Mediterranean-Rhône-Saône port and logistics axis as part of the work on the National Port Strategy driven by the government, aimed to experiment with a pilot demonstrator to test the security of the digital transport chain in order to improve the fluidity, safety and competitiveness of the supply chain and the intermodal delivery of goods on the Rhône / Saône axis



Dematerialize the process and the supply chain.

During the first half of 2019, the companies MGI, BuyCo and Keeex successfully tested the dematerialisation of entire export processes between Lyon and the Grand Port Maritime de Marseille, a major logistics axis for France. The blockchain technology used, called Keeex Stories, allows to register authenticated and verifiable sequences of supply chain events, data and documents produced and consumed by the parties that pertain to the transport of containers over the Rhône-Saône-Mediterranean axis. The tests were carried out thanks in particular to the participation of the KemOne, Alteo and Transcausse companies, and also to the road and river transport companies involved.

Improve traceability and measure ecological footprint.

The solution allows for the early sharing of documents, authenticated photographs, characteristic events and forecast information (on the loading of containers, their weight, origin and destination...), that help optimize the overall logistics process, provide new services and anticipate ever-increasing traceability requirements. For example, the solution also enables the exploitation of data from ships (pollution measures or CO2, certificates...) and the continuity with traceability needs incurred by last mile urban logistics and urban mobility.

Share a multimodal transport platform.

The information processed during the tests goes beyond the strict framework of the information currently exchanged (in sometimes non-optimal conditions) in the same situation. The provision of a mobile application for QRcodes flashing, character recognition, easy text entry and dates opens up possibilities for new sources of ROI, value and services to CCS operators, carriers, chargers, freight forwarders, barges, trucks, for instance by anticipating document creation and sharing, customs clearance, etc. Creating systematically authenticated, dated and verifiable data allows participants to be engaged in a digital process without worry. This generates significant gains for all players in the supply chain and allows us to envisage a shift to a higher scale.

Demonstrate French excellence in port innovation.

This pilot project was financed by the Banque des Territoires (Groupe Caisse des Depots), VNF (Voies Navigables de France), CNR (Compagnie Nationale du Rhône), and the GPMM (Grand Port Maritime de Marseille) which also coordinated its feasibility. This project was referenced by Le French Smart Port in Med, an approach to deploying the port innovation ecosystem co-led by the Port of Marseille Fos, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Marseille Provence and Aix-Marseille University.

The experiment was carried out by three companies specializing in logistics, digital solutions for the transport chain and Blockchain technology:

- *Marseille Gyptis International (MGI), a software company specializing in tracking goods in seaports and airports, provides its knowledge of port collaboration. With their vision "Connecting supply chains through an intelligent system allowing visibility and door-to-door fluidity of the goods", MGI is leading the development of the Cargo Intelligent System (CIS) Ci5.*
- *BuyCo, a collaborative platform for importers and exporters, simplifies the operational processes of container shipping;*
- *Keeex uses blockchain to create digital originals of documents, data, events, geotagged pictures and signatures organized within tamper proof registries ... to foster lean and efficient management of containers all along their journeys and all around the world with multiples tenants.*



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