DHL & Hewlett Packard Enterprise take aim at invoice process improvement

Thursday 7 November, 2019

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Through a joint collaboration, DHL Global Forwarding and HPE invest in the automation of administrative and shipment processing, offering more transparency and a better customer experience

Bonn, November 7, 2019: DHL Global Forwarding, the air and ocean freight specialist of Deutsche Post DHL Group, and Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) have worked to deploy a blockchain solution supporting logistics payment processing. Based upon smart contracts and blockchain technology, this solution offers a more robust alternative to back-end processes which are often error-prone and tedious. DHL believes blockchain has significant potential in this area and (by deploying a solution in conjunction with a major customer) intends to take a leading position in the application of this technology. The growing number of digital solutions and services deployed by DHL Global Forwarding is fully in line with Deutsche Post DHL Group's recently presented new corporate "Strategy 2025 - Delivering excellence in a digital world".

"Blockchain and other innovative technologies can be seen as key differentiators in removing significant layers of complexity from global supply chains," said Eugenius Otte, Head of Product Management, DHL Global Forwarding, Netherlands. "We are extremely excited to work with HPE, a long-standing customer, on this joint venture with the goal of delivering significant service enhancements, productivity improvements and savings in the supply chain."

Live since July 1, this Minimum Viable Product (MVP) solution links multiple entities of HPE and DHL Global Forwarding for one-off order management. One-offs are defined as requests for shipments that can be supported by the DHL network, but that are not part of the standard contract. The MVP aims to address some of the pain points in the approval process by making use of the inherent functionality of a distributed ledger. It simplifies the approval process and clearly identifies the shipment quotes that are approved (by whom, and when) – all in immutable records.

"Based on the initial results, HPE has observed a number of inherent benefits, including 100% invoice accuracy and paid on agreed terms, less days payment aging, and little to no manual intervention," according to Kim Masone, HPE Vice President, Global Logistics.

By eliminating the post –delivery checks for shipment approval, considerable time is gained by both HPE and DHL. In addition to facilitating shipment quote approvals, use of the MVP offers customers

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insight into expected payments, improves accounts receivable, and offers a single source of transparency for all parties. Invoices are triggered immediately following POD and can be paid to contractual payment terms.

According to Masone, "We see great benefits in using this tool and look forward to expanding its use to other non-contractual business globally."

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You can find the press release for download as well as further information on dpdhl.com/pressreleases

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50 Years DHL

In 2019 DHL is celebrating 50 years since the company's founding by three entrepreneurs in San Francisco in 1969. DHL began as a disruptor to the traditional delivery industry, circumventing bureaucracy with an innovative new service to deliver documents by air overnight. Since then, DHL has grown into a globe-spanning family of DHL companies with about 380,000 employees in over 220 countries and territories that covers the entire spectrum of logistics and supply chain services. DHL's customer-centricity and can-do culture have fueled five decades of innovation – from the DHL 1000, one of the first word processing computers in the world, to using the purpose built StreetScooter, an environmentally friendly delivery vehicle powered by an electric drive and developed by Deutsche Post DHL Group. With the Mission 2050 commitment to reach zero group-wide emissions by 2050, DHL is continuing to be a trailblazer in the logistics industry.

DHL – The logistics company for the world

DHL is the leading global brand in the logistics industry. Our DHL family of divisions offer an unrivalled portfolio of logistics services ranging from national and international parcel delivery, e-commerce shipping and fulfillment solutions, international express, road, air and ocean transport to industrial supply chain management. With about 380,000 employees in more than 220 countries and territories worldwide, DHL connects people and businesses securely and reliably, enabling global trade flows. With specialized solutions for growth markets and industries including technology, life sciences and healthcare, energy, automotive and retail, a proven commitment to corporate responsibility and an unrivalled presence in developing markets, DHL is decisively positioned as "The logistics company for the world".

DHL is part of Deutsche Post DHL Group. The Group generated revenues of more than 61 billion euros in 2018.

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