# The Suez Canal and the Changing Face of Middle East Logistics

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Trans Middle East Conference Cairo, Egypt November 2007



- Supply Chain Research
- Supply Market Forecasts
- Supply Chain Consulting



Global Supply Chain Economists<sup>5M</sup>

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# Agenda

- Global supply chain trends
- Trade and shipping through the Suez Canal today
- Panama vs. Suez?
- Key success factors for a supply chain strategy

# **Global supply chain trends**

# **Supply Chain Perspective**



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## Lean manufacturing and distribution

### Inventory as a Percent of GDP (US)





# **Extended supply chain visibility, management**



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# **Customer-Supplier Linkage**



- Delphi Automotive
  - Consider the whole supply chain first
  - Establish suppliers close to manufacturing, and assembly close to customers
  - Target the lowest-cost supply chain



- IBM
  - On-demand supply chain
  - Two-tier mentality
  - Visibility and reactivity







### Exxon-Mobil

- Call-center via SAP
- Payables via SAP
- Providing suppliers visibility to customer's orders





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## The race to "lean"

#### Inventory and Logistics Administration Costs as a Percent of GDP





# Trade and shipping through the Suez Canal today

# Middle East trade is booming



Source: Boston Logistics analysis of IMF data

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# The majority of Middle East trade is conducted with Asia and Europe

#### Merchandise imports of the Middle East by region

Merchandise exports of the Middle East by region

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# The Suez Canal handles mostly this Asia-Europe traffic

#### **Suez Canal Traffic Flows**



Source: Suez Canal Authority



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# 95% of traffic through the Suez Canal is on the Europe-Asia trade

### **Suez Canal Traffic by Trade Route**



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# Suez traffic is increasing as Far East volume shifts to South Asia



## 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006

### Far East South Asia

Source: Suez Canal Authority presentation to China Trade conference, July 2007





## And larger ships are ordered



## Panama vs. Suez?

# Panama largely serves the USEC-Asia trade

- 25% of total Asia-USEC container traffic
- Grains out of the US Gulf

By Trade Lane

E-Asia\_ E-USWC Pass-2% \_4% engers 2% Others Vehicles\_ US-SA 9% 6% 7% Container General 26% Cargo 6% **US-Asia** 45% **Dry Bulk** Other 22% Refriger-34% ated 16%

By Commodity Type

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Source: Boston Logistics analysis

## **Panama is constrained**





## Panama is constrained (cont'd)











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# The Panama Canal expansion program

- \$5.25b+ expansion
- Toll increases will increase rates by 69% over three years <sup>(1)</sup>

### **Before and After the Expansion**

Dimension	Before (2007)	After (2014)
Capacity (transits/year)	17,000	34,000
Max Vessel Size (TEUs)	4,400	12,000

<sup>(1)</sup> Household Goods Forwarders Association of America



# The Suez Canal can offer shippers lower cost for some traffic

- Breakeven line may extend as far north as Hong Kong
  - Hong Kong-USEC
    - 11,207 nautical miles via Suez
    - 11,593 via Panama
  - Hong Kong-Halifax
    - 11,101 nautical miles via Suez
    - 11,533 via Panama

## Large vessels will be the most economical

- Smaller vessels require too many in a string to achieve target frequencies
- Can amortize higher operating costs across more containers

Source: Suez Canal Authority presentation to China Trade conference, July 2007



# Major players are taking an interest in this

- Current carriers: CMA/CGM, Maersk, COSCO
- COSCO is making a \$730m investment
  - From 2.5m to 5.1m TEUs/year
  - Double the employment at the port
  - New ownership structure
    - APM Terminals of The Hague, Netherlands (55%)
    - COSCO Pacific (20%)
    - Suez Canal Authority 10%
    - National Bank of Egypt 5%
    - Egyptian Private Sector 10%
- DP World has bought 90% of the controlling shareholder at Sokhna Port.
  - Projections indicate 1.2 million TEU by the end of 2009



# Key success factors for a supply chain strategy

# Window of opportunity for new routes

- Extend the range of eligible Asia-US traffic
  - Hong Kong-USEC
  - Hong Kong-Halifax
- Exploit rising rail and Panama Canal rates to introduce an alternative for Post-Panamax vessels
- 7-year window until Panama Canal expansion is complete



# But performance has room for improvements





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Performance will make the difference in capturing traffic that is part of companies' lean global supply chains

The Supply Chain advantage is about more than cost!

- Reliability
- Flexibility
- Total transit time
- Inventory visibility
- Value-added services
- Product-services
- Intermodal links



# **Thank you!**

### David Jacoby: djacoby@bostonlogistics.com

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