

Founder and Managing Director

#### PCS (Port Community System) in Practice



# IT Partner Group PMAC 2020









Connecting your business

## IT Partner at a glance



If moving cargo is your world, we will help you run it.
IT Partner. Connecting your business.

**Numbers** 

**Since 1999** 

30 staff

Locations

Netherlands

St. Maarten

Suriname

**Subsidiaries** 





Customers

**Ports** 

**Terminals** 

**Agencies** 

**Freight forwarders** 

**Barge operators** 

Software solutions

TOS

**PMS** 

PCS

**ERP** 

**SPECIALS** 

**Technologies** 

Microsoft C# / .Net

**Visual Studio** 

**DevOps** 

Google Flutter

Thinkwise Low-Code Tools

Confluence

Jira

HubSpot

**Managing Directors** 





**Our values** 

**Service** 

Knowledge

Quality

**Flexible** 

**Solution driven** 

Modules

EDI

**PORTAL** 

**APPS** 

WEB

BI

Why you should choose IT Partner:



"One of the advantages of working with IT Partner is that they are able to provide us new releases and updates on a regular basis with almost zero downtime.

For us, being the largest short sea terminal of Europe, it is crucial that we can do our job without any disruption. We can update our entire TOS within a meal break."

MAARTEN DE VRIES

IT MANAGER, ROTTERDAM SHORT SEA TERMINALS BV, THE NETHERLANDS

#### Software solutions







Freight Forwarding, Agencies and Warehousing

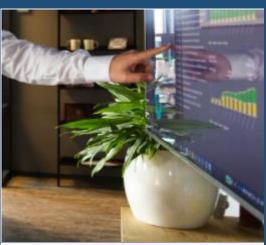


**Port Community System and** Port Management System



Barging





Tailor Made, Customized Software

# What is a Port Community System



A PCS is an electronic platform which connects the multiple systems operated by a variety of organisations that make up a sea port or airport community. It is shared in the sense that it is set up, organised and used by firms in the same sector – in this case, a

port community.

**IPCSA Guidelines** 

on

Port Community Systems for Small and Medium Sized Ports

#### International Port Community Systems Association – Definitions

#### A Port Community System:

- is a neutral and open electronic platform enabling intelligent and secure exchange of information between public and private stakeholders in order to improve the competitive position of the sea and air ports' communities.
- optimises, manages and automates port and logistics processes through a single submission of data and connecting transport and logistics chains.

#### A Port Community System Operator:

- is a public, private or public/private organisation that operates and maintains a Port Community System and where the Port Community System represents the core of that organisation's business.
- has a board, or some form of steering committee, made up of representatives from different internal and external groups within the port and logistics community.
- has 'service level agreements' with PCS users to manage the electronic exchange of information between different parties on their behalf.

# PCS history



- First PCS systems in Germany, France, UK around late 1970s
- The Netherlands and Spain started around early 1990s

**2020s: PCS is hot!** 

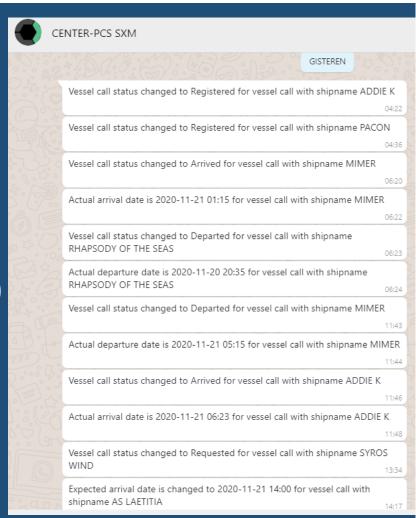
Many ports and countries are now designing, implementing and considering a PCS platform.

# PCS vs Single Window

- A National Single Window would be the ideal situation, but reality shows individual SWs for specific areas, such as Maritime, Customs etc.
- A PCS is basically an implementation of a Maritime Single Window for port related activities.
- A combination of connected Single Windows could be seen as a National Single Window.
- Connected PCS platforms could be seen as Regional Single Windows.

## Important considerations

- Easy access (web/cloud based)
- Digital information (enabling statistics, less red tape)
- Secure (data encryption, protecting commercial values, 2-factor authentication)
- Implementation of data standards (Asycuda, EDI)
- Connectivity to other systems (eg Port Management System)
- Single 'truth' of information
- Implementation of IMO FAL Convention
- Real-time up-to-date notifications (email, whatsapp, sms)
- Local support organization as part of the project



# Challenges

- Establish an independent PCS operator
- PCS implementation with many users from different organisations
- All stakeholders must participate, starting with cargo/cruise agents entering data
- Change of work procedures
- Not all stakeholders have the same level of automation (systems and skills)

#### PCS at Port St. Maarten

- First ideas of a PCS started in 2017
- It resulted in a fact-finding project, consulting many stakeholders, with a strong focus in creating awareness and participation
- Key stakeholders
  - Port Authority (initiator and owner of the platform)
  - Customs
  - Immigration and Border Protection
  - Cargo and Cruise agents
  - Health ministries
  - many others like Coast Guard, Port State Control, etc
- Development started in April 2019, ready for soft Go Live December 2019, fully operational since March 2020.

### St. Maarten as 1<sup>st</sup> Caribbean IPCSA member





"In our strive to be the most advanced port of the Caribbean we have found Caribbean Software Solutions by our side, every step of the way".

#### ROGER LAWRENCE, SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEMBER

PORT ST. MAARTEN



# Impact with Covid19

- Covid19 pandemic required immediate action, decision was made to register ALL arriving ships in PCS
- Due to travel restrictions, all training was done remote (100+ users)
- All information is now available at a single place (centralized), including Health Declaration
- A group of stakeholders must approve/reject the arrival of a ship Health ministry, Immigration and Border Control, Customs, Port Authority etc
- With approval they can set certain levels:
  - Docking only
  - Embarking and/or disembarking allowed
  - Cargo discharge and/or loading allowed

# Ongoing project

- The implementation is still ongoing, moving from uploaded documents to digital information
- Adding more features
- Improve quality of information
- Extend connectivity to other systems

#### Useful links

• IPCSA <a href="https://ipcsa.international/">https://ipcsa.international/</a>
<a href="https://ipcsa.international/publications/pcs-for-small-and-medium-sized-ports/">https://ipcsa.international/publications/pcs-for-small-and-medium-sized-ports/</a>

IT Partner

Caribbean Software Solutions

Center PCS website

https://www.itpartner.nl/en/

https://caribbeansoftwaresolutions.com/

http://centerpcs.com/

More information?



