NTEL·X WINS TOP TRANSPORTATION AWARD

Virginia company uses technology to advance Middle East trucking

McLean, VA, July 2009— A technology-driven management system that helped spur the transformation of road freight transportation in Jordan has been recognized as "Best New Product" by the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America). The award is given annually to highlight the most innovative use of information technology in solving surface transportation problems worldwide.

NTELX, Inc. of McLean, VA (formerly FreightDesk Technologies) developed and operates the Truck Control System (TCS) for the Jordanian port of Aqaba. Deploying NTEL·X's data management system and decision-rules applications, the TCS integrates real-time data on cargo and truck availability with capacity utilization algorithms for roads and terminals, dramatically reducing wait times, easing congestion, and improving the flow of trade. As one manager noted, "this system eliminated chaos and congestion 50 years in the making."

The TCS is based on NTEL·X's review that indicated Aqaba's problems were caused not by a lack of infrastructure but by poor information flows resulting in too much waiting time – trucks waiting on paperwork, waiting in lines, and waiting at terminals – a problem that could be solved by an intelligent transportation system collecting, validating and sharing information more efficiently. Fully operational only three months after project launch, TCS's impacts were immediate and dramatic: the cost of inland transport fell an estimated 20% and the same assets now move 25% more cargo through the port. Additionally, pollution, fuel consumption, and road accidents significantly decreased.

Scott F. Belcher, President and CEO of ITS America, said in making the award his organization was impressed "with the measurable benefits truck drivers, shippers, port operators, government officials, and other users received from the system, coupled with NTEL·X's ability to effectively deploy cutting-edge technology in a low-tech environment." Dhiren Patel, NTEL·X President, noted "technology systems like TCS can immediately help countries, port authorities, and users multiply the returns from existing and planned investments." He concluded, "Billions are being spent in Aqaba. TCS is helping make that investment pay off."

ABOUT NTEL·X: NTEL·X's data integration and analysis solutions make operational use of high-volume, complex, transactional data, enabling our clients to move quickly from "insight to action." The company has developed and supports information technology systems for, among others, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Treasury.

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