



SMART

Logistics Partnership
SLP alliance
NARRATIVE

Significance and purpose of the sapphire + dialogue logo:

a multi-faceted cut gem, represents the **SLP Alliance multi-faceted, phased holistic dynamic approach and services, introducing stakeholder dialogue to enable collaboration and participation, adapting to fit-for-purpose physical & digital connectivity solutions for interoperable • compatible • connected • modular • collaborative Physical Internet – ecoNetworks – iSCM solutions (*)**

(*) **iSCM** = interoperable Supply Chain Matrix, integrating intelligent transportation solutions.

Context

Transport and logistics (T&L) as an industry is failing the supply chains they are supposed to support.

Poor predictability, lack of resilience, poor service, and volatile charges, continuously cause sometimes massive disruptions in supply chains. This adversely impacts costs of goods to companies and consumers as well as shortages and unavailability of sometimes vital products.

These disruptions exist at each of the supply chain segments between global and local logistics nodes and transport modes, causing impact at each of the legs, due to lack of interoperability between the supply chain segments, logistics nodes, and transport modes.

Many of the supply chain actors are of the opinion that the industry has potentials to improve the situation through enhanced collaboration amongst the supply chain actors and recognising the bottlenecks that require immediate attention and lasting resolutions. The building blocks to do so,

are already available today. However, they have not yet been consolidated into solutions that are extensively used or applied in a collaborative mode across supply chain actors.

In a holistic systemic approach, it is essential to think and function as the supply chain, rather than as individual supply chain actors. Still, it is of equal importance to ensure everyone's concerns are considered, their needs accommodated, and agreed with a group of collaborative supply chain actors. Taking out the "**siloe d mindset**" is thus essential to start a renewed journey, tremendously improving the current T&L operations.

This is the "**WHAT**" and "**HOW**" that **SLP Alliance** aims to achieve, bringing supply chain actors closer together in dialogue, requiring an open environment to adapt to change in their own environment, consistent with the bigger picture beyond their own needs and concerns. In line with that approach, **SLP Alliance** facilitates the actors to identify a number of decoupling points to ease the adoption of changes in the physical environment of their supply



chain, welcoming local resources, and future developments.

The Internet provides the inspiration to combine agreed-upon building blocks in limitless optimal configurations to achieve levels of predictability, resilience, speed, and utilisation, often more efficient than the T&L industry achieves. Every organisation today relies on the internet, never doubting it, because it simply “delivers”. This idea of the Internet for T&L is known as the “**Physical Internet**” ($\text{Pi} - \pi$).

Our Mission

SLP Alliance assists organisations, using and providing T&L services, to move towards the levels of efficiency, utilisation, effectiveness, predictability, and customer experience that the internet provides. This relates to our practiced expertise of “**WHO**” we are and “**WHY**” we facilitate “**Pi-readiness**” for supply chains and their collaborative actors.

Our role is to guide organisations as well as industry sectors and their respective supply chain actors through this journey, one achievable step at a time. To facilitate moving towards sustainable, effective, and efficient supply chains, supported by “future-thinking agile” T&L, able to meet current and future demands, safely and swiftly.

Who we are

SLP Alliance is a growing partnership of divers T&L experts, collaborating to move towards Pi-readiness. The goal is to realise simultaneously the objectives of **Physical Internet and Ecological Consciousness**. Once the first steps – dialogue and action towards improved collaboration among the supply chain actors – have proven successful, the combinations of building blocks can be used for rapid multiplication across supply chains. The next stage will enable the potentials to:

- define **decoupling points** between maritime and other transport modes at key logistics nodes: ports, distribution centres, multimodal transfer hubs, and urban-edge (de)consolidation hubs;
- identifying specific needs, operations, and regulations applicable for in-city & urban distribution, operated by **independent city hubs**, in close collaboration with **urban planning** departments of local governments.

SLP Alliance’ innovation expertise and practical experience across disciplines, industries and sectors warrant dedicated engagement with operations and teams across supply chains, industries, and geographies. Combined, **SLP Alliance** partners have decades of experience:

- Supply Chain Management, logistics, transportation, and distribution;
- program and project management;
- design and engineering, systemic, regenerative, and efficient product and service design, and prototyping;
- information technology development and deployment;
- services, production, processing, and manufacturing in a wide range of sectors (automotive, electronics, pharmaceuticals, agri, food & beverages, renewable energy, standardisation organisations, telecommunication, information technology development, ...);
- global data standards, mobility data and data sharing methodologies;
- consultancy and practical experience in maritime, port, hinterland, and city operations across all continents, coaching, guidance, and facilitation, covering topics such as team acceleration, change management, collaboration across internal (regional and international) business units and external business partners, circular and regenerative dynamics, sustainability compliance and reporting, appreciative inquiry, change facilitation, whole systems transformation, ... and EU Urban Mobility toolkits such as SUMP, SULP, ...

What we do

SLP Alliance facilitates collaboration and synchronisation of activities within organisations and with their internal and external T&L operators, to remove uncertainties, which cause the vast majority of today's bottlenecks and issues in their T&L operations and supply chains.

Collaboration thrives only in case agreed-upon building blocks will be used commonly among the partners involved.

These building blocks exist, and **SLP Alliance** partners have practical experience in implementing them. Like on the Internet, the building blocks will need to be combined into configurations that fit the business needs of their T&L operations. Together with our clients and developed ecoNetworks, **SLP Alliance** creates innovative solutions with high positive impact based on combining standards-based proven building blocks.

SLP Alliance supports the process improvement of moving goods **from where they are to where they should be** over any distance, efficiently across supply chain segments, transport modes and logistics nodes and in-city and urban distribution (by ROAD, RAIL, IWW, SSS, AIR, HyperLoop, drone, ... city-vans, cargo-bikes, trikes+trailer).



While there is a lot of focus on the digital data standards across industries, **SLP Alliance** understands the full potential of improvements that can be achieved through digitalisation and creating realistic but essential decoupling points.

However, these can only be accomplished when industries also use standards for the physical units (integral part of the building blocks) managed in the T&L processes. We are working with industries across geographies to establish those commonly used physical standards alongside the digital data standards to connect the physical units with their digital twins. These physical units are referred to as "**modular POD solutions**" (or **mPODs**).



SLP Alliance partners bring on board their unique expertise and experience from large multinational corporations to medium-sized enterprises, such as:

- Fixlog brings knowledge of how GDS (Global Data Standards) and GDS-based services can help identify the right building blocks from any provider to configure the solution for a given challenge in T&L;
- Several partners (CLEANConnect, FixLog, MCG and new partners) contribute in-depth knowledge, experience and IT solutions that help design, configure, and implement the fit-for-purpose solutions to meet T&L, supply chain and in-city distribution challenges;
- CONTAI contributes its deep proven expertise in design and engineering of lean physical interfaces between scalable modules and infrastructure, enabling legacy OEM and future autonomous equipment configurations to be used dynamically in manual, robotised and autonomous operations; ...

The services of **SLP Alliance** entail a **multi-faceted holistic dynamic approach towards facilitation, dialogue, collaboration, participation, and fit-for-purpose solutions with interoperability for physical & digital connectivity, realising synchro-modality.**

How we operate

SLP Alliance acts as a neutral facilitator for supply chain actors through their journey towards **Physical Internet** and **Ecological Consciousness**.

Once stakeholders agree to tighten their collaborative ties, they advance towards Pi-readiness, identifying what works, what does not, and which parts require improvement through the execution of livinglabs and innovative use-cases. Successful collaboration often achieves refined processes and procedures, adapting current systems in place, and demonstrating improvements across supply chain entities. Consecutively, this will multiply into many other supply chains, due to the involved actors, engaging in their other supply chains with existing and new actors across different regions and logistics nodes.

SLP Alliance anticipates the adoption of decoupling points between maritime ocean transport and dedicated transportation equipment for hinterland long-distance crossborder multimodal transportation and in-city and urban distribution, using **smart connected modular POD solutions**.

Combined, adapting to mPODs and exponentiation of gradual process improvements, introduces the supply chain actors towards the realisation of the Physical Internet, enabling **physical AND digital connectivity**. This will significantly facilitate and accelerate enhanced innovative technologies, optimisation, and synchronisation, while already realising tremendous effects on ecological impacts, meeting the strict deadlines towards net-zero freight transportation. In addition, mPODs will reinforce T&L developments to realise

improved, synchro-modal, optimised freight handling across supply chain segments, transport modes, and logistics nodes, improving **"liveable cities"**, now with 426 cities connecting urban nodes along EU TEN-T corridors, recognising **"Cities as Logistics Hubs"**






Advanced technologies – autonomous ships and truck drones, hyperloops and other freight-dedicated infrastructures, robotisation in DC's and warehouses – and the ever increasing in-city and urban distribution, will cause significant changes in T&L, surely when combined with smart mPODs. Early adaptors will have a key role in today's logistics operations, reaching ecological targets, while catalysing an imminent future!

SLP Alliance initiates and engages in various consortia for **"final Proof of Concept"** to **TRL8**, through Innovation Action and Deployment. mPODs mass-manufacturing sparks a new global industry, benefits all supply chain actors including maritime and port sectors via:

- licensing and building-packs for VBB's (Vehicle Body Builders);
- retrofitting trailer chassis, rail wagons, barge holds, airplane trolley trains, ... with electronic autonomous security locking systems (CHaaS);
- using short-distance clean vehicles, handling freight between transfer hubs, urban edge consolidation hubs, and city hubs, coordinating the growing in-city and urban distribution (beyond e-commerce);
- for distribution in city and urban areas, for e-vans, e-trike+trailer, scooters, metros and small hyperloop applications and possible many other interested parties in various sectors (warehouses, wholesale, supermarket, retail, malls, restaurants, campuses, ...).

SLP Alliance approach to (funded and financed) projects, focuses on a combination of:

- facilitate **stakeholder collaborative dialogue** with SC actors, urban planners, ...
- **"final proof of concept"** from TRL 7 or lower, ex R&D+I project to at least TRL8
- selecting **best-fit physical & digital connectivity solutions** for deployment, and
- realising the **Physical Internet Roadmap components** outlined by [ALICE-etp](#).

Join our Community of Practice at   follow us at    our partners on LI (see logos)

