MAINSYS-
Israeli Maritime Information System

MAINSYS – A proposal for MEDA Mos call for pilot projects

Summary

MAINSYS - Israel Maritime Integrated System wishes to contribute to the MEDA Mos Pilot project in an area it believes to be essential to the improvement of sea transportation in the Mediterranean Sea.

We offer to contribute to the facilitation of the sea commerce by adding to MAINSYS abilities to be a **M**editerranean **S**ea **C**ommerce **C**onverter (**MSCC**). This would permit the easier transfer of shipping trade information between different countries and systems in the Mediterranean basin.

In our vision we see a departure of a ship from a Mediterranean port. The information concerning the content of cargo passes the translating layer and is sent electronically to the arrival port, enabling in-time preparation in destination for fast release according to local national regulations.

MAINSYS would allow a fast electronic communication between different ports, each one of them using its own EDI system and methods.

We suggest creating a bi directional translating layer from the original port procedures to the destination port procedures. MAINSYS will convert the information sent from one port of the Mediterranean sea, like Italy or Israel, to another system port. All this will be transparent to the origin and destination ports. As first stage, the conversion would focus on one of the basic forms, like manifest. Later on, we could add more messages until the main of our existing 40 EDI messages would be able to be converted from and to any procedure and format used by the partners.
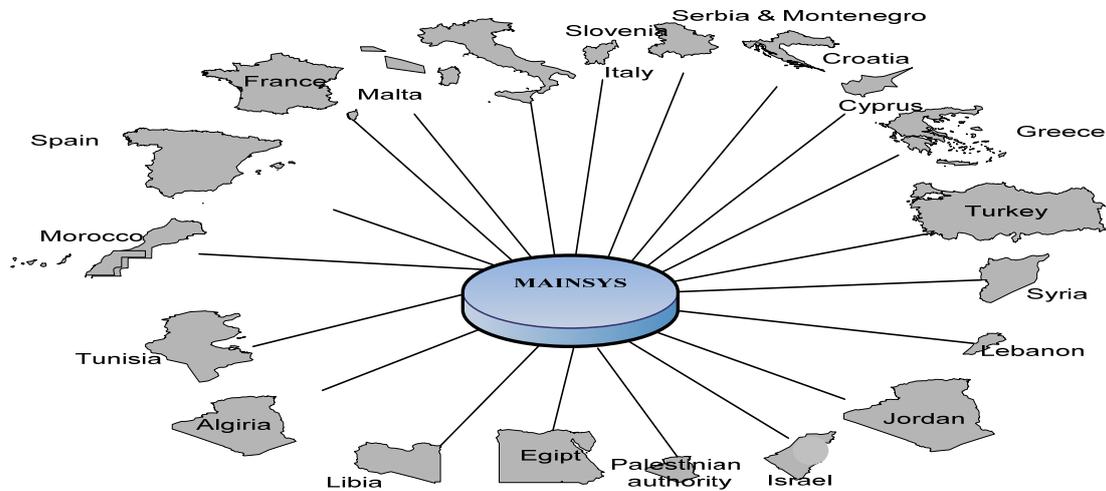
The need

From ancient times the Mediterranean Sea was an intersection point between Europe, Africa and Asia. The fast increase in the quantities of goods transported through its waters together with the short distances and high sailing speed in this sea are creating new challenges to the countries around it. For coping with the 21st century commerce, faster processes are absolutely needed.

The modern sea commerce has developed separately in every country. All countries use EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) based system, but there are variations of systems procedures and EDI formats. The possibility of all countries around the Mediterranean Sea to trade efficiently is a mutual interest for all. Since all systems are already built, this can only be done by creating a translating layer.

The solution

The original European port would work with the Mediterranean partner using the same procedures as with another European partner.

The information will be processed by MAINSYS to the Israeli, Jordanian or other Mediterranean countries in a "transparent" way both to sender and receiver.

For example:

MAINSYS receives the information from the European sender. MAINSYS converts this information according to the local regulations like custom forms, terminal requested information or other governmental agencies requirements.

As for today, this work is done **manually** by local representatives of the ship liner, creating time delays and costing money.

About us - MAINSYS - Maritime Integrated System

MAINSYS is the actual cross-platform, cross-industry project that unifies processes in regard to Israel sea trade. It includes EDI messaging between all sea trade users in Israel.

The board of directors of MAINSYS is composed by a consortium of the main Israel trade partners: Israel customs, Israel shipping authority, maritime ports, Israel ministry of transport, chamber of shipping of Israel, the chamber of custom agents of Israel and more…

MAINSYS is managed by IPC - Israel Ports Company.

Users of MAINSYS

- The three maritime ports in Israel.
- All shipping agents functioning in Israel.
- Israel customs.

- All Custom agents.
- Main trucking companies.
- Israel railways.
- Warehouses and depots

MAINSYS in numbers

- 20 Servers supporting the system. Some 30 men - years invested in development.
- 40 Message Types
- 4.5 Million Messages per month.
- About 10 M $/year – Approx. saving from human labor cost by MAINSYS.

Highest Security and data safety

- Digital signature technology. Vault technology such as Cyber-Ark tools.
- Redundancy of critical systems.

Other advanced features

- A strong use of the internet. Advanced technologies such as Web Service & XML.
- Help desk. Automatic monitoring of functionality by SMS alert.
- High Availability of above 99.9%.

Conclusion

The efficient and fast communication between different Mediterranean countries is a critical factor for efficient sea commerce. MAINSYS wishes to contribute to MEDA-Mos effort by the development of a pilot project of a messages format convertor that will allow different ports from the Mediterranean basin to keep their current working system and EDI languages while MAINSYS would help in converting the messages from one system to another and through this, connect between the Mediterranean Sea trade partners.

MAINSYS converting layer will enable trade facilitation by shortening the time cycle of sea trade procedures and thus improve the Supply Chain Management in the Mediterranean basin.