

POSTAL NEWS

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1. Postal group outsources financial systems to Logica

Spring Global Mail will use blended sourcing to achieve cost savings
Angelica Mari, Computing, 09 Jun 2008

Royal Mail's business post partner wants to achieve efficiency with outsourcing

Business postal operator Spring Global Mail has signed a contract with supplier Logica to outsource its finance and accounting global operations.

Spring – a joint venture of Dutch postal group TNT, UK's Royal Mail and Singapore Post – will hand over the responsibility for finance and accounting functions such as billing, accounts payable and general accounting. As a consequence, Dutch employees will transfer to Logica's finance and accounting (F&A) shared services centre in Amstelveen, while German employees will transfer to Logica's Arnhem branch.

“The contract provides our transferred people access to a more professional F & A environment and enhances career prospects for them,” said Spring Global Mail's chief executive Iain McLure.

The contract will follow a “blended sourcing” model, meaning that different activities can be carried out in the most suitable and cost-effective location, which could be onsite, offsite, nearshore or offshore.

The strategy includes moving part of the group's finance and accounting activities to Bangalore, where Logica's staff will support customers in the Netherlands, the UK, Germany, Spain, France and Italy.

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2. Postal center plans biohazard drill

By Portland Press Herald Staff Report

June 09, 2008 11:49 AM

The U.S. Postal Service distribution center in Scarborough will test emergency responses to anthrax in a biohazard exercise with local, state and federal agencies on Tuesday.

Postal Service Way will be closed during the drill, which begins at 6 p.m. and ends around 9:30 p.m.

The postal service is equipped with on-site equipment known as a Biohazard Detection System or BDS. The BDS collects hourly air samples that are analyzed to determine whether anthrax is present. The entire sampling and testing process is automated. If the BDS detects anthrax, the system shuts down the operation and sounds an alarm to evacuate the plant.

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3. Japan Looking To Go Green With Electric Postal Cars

Monday, 09 June 2008

Japan's postal service has announced that it is considering plans to switch its entire fleet of around 21,000 short-distance delivery vehicles to zero-emission EVs starting this business year. The company has also approached Japanese companies to push for the development of electric-powered motorbikes.

A spokesman at Japan Post Service Co, the mail delivery unit of Japan Post Corp, said, "We're discussing the feasibility with automakers and battery makers to that end." Depending on how fast the cars and the necessary recharging infrastructure can be set up, the company may use some gasoline-electric hybrids in the interim. It's possible that the delivery vehicles will be a variation of the Mitsubishi i-MiEV.

This seems likely given that shares in Mitsubishi soared immediately following the announcement. Any discussion of the feasibility of the project is likely to focus on the high cost of converting to an all-electric fleet. However, with gasoline prices soaring, cost will be less of an issue in the long-term. The project would also be big enough to make a sizeable dent in Japan's carbon emissions and might just tip the scales in favor of the government-backed roll out of a nation-wide recharging infrastructure. This will also be encouraging news for carmakers looking to invest in EVs, with such a large 'guaranteed' initial demand likely to ease worries about the potential market.

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