

FlexPort

provides you with an up-to date system, able to meet the increasing requirements of

- Flexibility
- Reliability
- Efficiency
- Control



The port solution of FlexPort is an ERP solution built to cater to the requirements and needs of today's international port business. FlexPort is developed in the Microsoft Dynamics AX platform and used by Ports and landlord ports.

FlexPort

The average port typically runs several different software solutions to manage its business. Microsoft Dynamics AX for ports offers one fully integrated, all in one system automating manual processes and eliminating duplication of information from one system to another.

Having all port processes in one system allows the organization to benefit from information of the different departments. The operational data is then used to calculate revenues to be invoiced to the different parties. This financial integration is supported by workflow approvals and gives the possibility to have an audit trail on ledger transactions.

Microsoft Dynamics AX

FlexPort is built on Microsoft Dynamics AX, an integrated, adaptable and scalable business management solution. Microsoft Dynamics AX works like and with familiar Microsoft software and is a part of the Microsoft platform which allows you to take advantage of existing IT investments and grow with future developments of Microsoft. In this way you achieve faster ROI along with the advantage of the seamless reporting and business analysis features.

Feature Highlights

Fully integrated business management system:

- Full and thorough integration of finance and operations
- Vessel traffic and activities
- Vessel and berth scheduling
- Status awareness and conflict identification
- Services including resource planning and time management
- Calculation and invoicing of fees
- Efficient communication with customers through EDI, XML or Web portal
- Control and invoicing of leased properties and areas
- Handling of cargo and containers
- Terminal management
- Document and email management
- Integrates with FlexShip

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Vessel traffic and activities

Registration of vessel movements and details of the activities around the vessel are registered in FlexPort on the individual port call, e.g. data about arrival and departure (date, time, quay, last/next port, etc.), information about the loading and discharging port, use as well as nature of goods and quantity, shipping actions etc. Authorized users from third parties are able to enter information direct in the system through a web interface. Registration can also be done by electronic data transfer or integration with an Automatic Identification System (AIS).

Berth planning & conflict identification

Registration of berthing on quay sections can be done up to the level of bollards. Constant conflict calculations on quay bookings and draft violations helps users to be accurate and run the operation more smoothly and efficient.

Services and fees

FlexPort provides the managing of all required services to the vessel, including the reservation of resources needed. Services can be invoiced and used for budget purposes.

The services can be a physical activity as well as different types of fees. Using templates, FlexPort can automatically suggest a set of services to be carried out in connection with the activity in question as well as relevant resources. More than 100 calculation methods can be combined with advanced tariff setup to calculate cost and revenue of e.g. vessels port disbursements including automatic calculations of dockage, water, power usage and cargo dues.

Cargo registration

Cargo details are recorded in FlexPort linked to the vessel. Electronic manifests can be imported. From there, bookings are created in the system to be used in cargo operations. Stowage plans can be registered related to the port call.

Property Management

Property Management of FlexPort handles lease contracts, lease on buildings, areas, services, fees etc. as well as related payments.

On the basis of information entered, invoice proposals are automatically generated to be used for the final invoicing.

The Property Management module is developed for ports and therefore fully integrated with the port solution functionalities in FlexPort.

Resource management

Resources in FlexPort are defined and maintained under resource management. Resources could be machines, personnel, tools, vessels, cranes, quays, trucks, railway etc.

In the setup of services, resources can be attached. Executing the resource reservations schedules the activity in the total capacity planning. The overview of the resource capacities shows usage, planning and free capacities of the resources.

FlexPort includes the solutions needed for the modern port

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- Port Call
- Services and fees
- Resource handling
- Cargo & container handling
- Warehouse management
- Container management
- Yard management
- Property management
- AIS Integration
- Web enabled
- Efficient resource planning
- Efficient communication
- Complete control
- Easy follow-up
- Reliable estimation
- Fast quotation



Obtain the advantages by using FlexPort

- Fully integrated system
- Optimized processes
- Reliability
- Increased competitiveness
- Future proof
- Reduced manual routines
- Fast ROI
- Flexibility

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FlexPort – is easily adaptable to your individual needs and requirements.
Designed by the ports for the ports

Document handling

On basis of the recorded information it is possible to generate various documents, e.g. Proforma Disbursement Account, Booking confirmation, Statement of facts, Bill of lading, Cargo manifest, Waybill, Loading/discharging lists, etc. These documents are created based on pre-defined Microsoft Office (Word & Excel) templates and are archived with reference to the actual activity or port call and therefore always easily accessible. The document management functionality can also be used to attach incoming documents for instance vessel details, e-mails, certificates, charter parties and packing lists.

Cargo & terminal operation

All cargo types can be handled, including break-bulk, bulk, RoRo and Containers. Cargo is registered on bookings to be handled in a vessel operation, yard move or gate handling. Inventory management of Dynamics AX allows you to register items, batches, serial numbers, warehouse lots, etc.

With FlexPort you have an overview on contractual obligations related to the vessels scheduled or berthed and the onboard cargo. The vessel operations can be planned and the required resources allocated. By setting up a service to a booking, predefined activities or “one off” jobs can be planned and executed.

Thereafter you can register tallies, shifts and delays, report on short and over landed cargo.

Warehouse & yard management

From the gate-in handling, the system accompanies the cargo through the warehouse or yard, by suggesting an optimal storage location and creation of a cargo transport. FlexPort allows you to manage all goods stored in warehouses and yards.

Release of cargo is initiated on release orders and optionally accompanied by a workflow process.

The registration of the owner on the cargo allows you to report on stocks and calculation of storage rent.

Container management

All handled containers are registered in FlexPort so at any given time container position information can be accessed. The ability to track and trace containers based on status and location. The information is stored in the system for later retrieval. Cargo stuffed in containers for ships convenience can be stripped and tallied out of the vessel operation.

Project management

Project management is used for all financial follow-up on operations. Bookings, Port calls and individual services can be attached to a specific project. It is possible to transfer calculated transactions to a project budget. Service fees can be invoiced through projects. Furthermore it is possible to post actual costs, incoming invoices and actual hours to the project. Dynamics AX project management contains standard statistics and analysis tools.

AIS integration

FlexPort provides automatic exchange of your AIS data between FlexPort and GateHouse AIS Port Solutions. FlexPort automatically receives information about e.g. actual time of arrival and vessel movement, which is automatically updated in the system. Furthermore, information from FlexPort can be visualized in the AIS system.

Benefits

- One fully integrated all in one system
- Flexibility to meet your unique needs under changing circumstances and requirements
- Use of Work flow approvals
- Fast and reliable estimation and quotation
- Easy follow-up on projects concerning budget, revenue, hours and costs
- Manual routines are minimized and duplicate registrations are avoided
- Continuous generation of billable transaction in the individual processes
- Built on proven Microsoft products and technologies

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Business Analysis

Business Analysis helps provide the power needed to quickly transform business data from FlexPort into knowledge and strategic action.

- Analyze productivity and profitability across the entire business operation.
- Generate performance scorecards, or obtain instant reports and rollups.

Billing

The revenues calculated on the Port call, Property Management and Bookings etc. form the basis for invoicing. Depending on the parameter setup and approval procedures, single or multiple invoices can be generated by a single keystroke. Posted invoices are directly processed in general ledger and accounts receivables.

Advanced financials

Advanced financials enables flexible financial functionality for the shipping industry including multiple entities and business models. You can streamline head office functions with intercompany and consolidation tools whilst providing only the functionality required for other operations. Functions including General Ledger, Budgeting, Accounts Receivables, Accounts Payables, Banking with Cash Flow Forecasting and Electronic Payment Integration, Fixed Assets and HRM form a fully integrated solution that enables a mix of both individual and multi company operations.

Web

Web functionality using Microsoft SharePoint can be made available for internal use as well for third parties like customers, agents or suppliers. For instance customers and agents can see the status on existing port calls and bookings.

Mobile device integration

FlexPort supports a variety of Windows Mobile platforms and devices including Pocket PCs, Tablet PCs, and Smartphones. The solution can also be customized for complex devices and multiple carriers.

Ultimate Shipping Solutions

With FlexPort, USS is striving to set a worldwide system standard for companies involved in the shipping business. FlexPort is sold worldwide through highly qualified and dedicated partners. All partners are certified in FlexPort for Microsoft Dynamics AX. USS also offers FlexShip, an ERP solution based on Microsoft Dynamics AX. FlexShip is designed and made for companies involved in vessel operations and transport related activities.

Support

FlexPort is locally supported by Microsoft Dynamics AX experts, with 2nd line support by experienced shipping employees and the initial developers of the system.