Roissy Hub: the Information System at the heart of La Poste's international sorting centre

La Poste's international sorting centre is the largest multimodal platform in Europe.

Roissy Hub is directly connected to Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport and processes 100% of mail flows between France's inward and outward offices of exchange[1], both by road and by air. It also sorts more than 12% of all domestic priority (one-day) mail that is distributed by the Aviation Postale Intérieure (API - domestic airmail service).

Roissy Hub covers 60,000m² on two levels and has 1,000 postal employees working 24 hours a day to receive, sort, and secure more than 1.5 million objects per day (2.5 million including the entire international hub[2]).

SOLYSTIC co-built and manages Roissy Hub's Information System (IS), which serves as the site's management, planning, and strategic decision-making centre.

SOLYSTIC has integrated different types of sorting machines into the IS, which defines the organisation and sort plans of parcels, container, letter, and flat mail sorters.

The IS also integrates the 3.2 km of computer-integrated material handling that dispatches all the containers and packages towards different workshops, scanners, and computer terminals spread throughout the site. The IS makes it possible to:
- manage reference documents and produce sort plans,
- manually scan containers,
- print weight labels for ULDs (Unit Load Device),
- supervise equipment and operations,
- manually secure items,
- create airline workload plans,
- produce digital invoices called (EDI).

The IS also organises aircraft containers according to the type of plane and manages agreements with the 70 airlines (particularly regarding price) as well as stopovers, flights, and loading plans. It can also print ULD barcodes. Lastly, an essential function of the IS involves monitoring operations (the operations plan) and each package and parcel (track & trace), as well as scanning, storing, and searching for all the documents that are processed (DMS).

The IS is the central and strategic component of Roissy Hub. It must function 24 hours a day to ensure that La Poste can provide the expected level of service both nationally and internationally, in a demanding aviation environment in terms of security and respect for break times.

Following La Poste's call for tenders in 2011, SOLYSTIC was selected to keep the Information System operational and make the necessary changes to ensure optimal performance, as part of a TPAM contract (Third Party Application Maintenance - *see Solynews Nos. 13 & 14*).

SOLYSTIC has a team of engineers that analyses and resolves all incidents thanks to their complete mastery of 70 applications that provide remote access for real time control.

SOLYSTIC ensures that its employees are always fully proficient in all the IS' technologies - even those that are obsolete. It responds to La Poste's requests and also makes changes to applications such as:
- improving mixed sorting on the TCA sorter to process both export and import packages in the same session,
- adapting to changes in UPU or air transport standards,
- migrating to a new, more modern web environment. ■

from Benoît Arribe

ROISSY HUB PLATFORM

TLE: bundles and bulky objects
TCA: sorting of airline containers according to destination
TSR: sorting into sacks for road transport
TBR: sorting into bins for road transport

TOP: flat sorting
TPF: letter sorting
Sampling: measurements of size and weight based on samples of letters

Facts and figures:
- *Ships to 200 countries and 100 French departments*
- *1,500 API / night containers*
- *1.5 million objects broken down into:*
- *60% mail*
- *38% import/export merchandise (small packages), mainly from China and Asia*
- *2% parcels.*

Mail traffic has somewhat stabilised and even slowed, while e-commerce has led to an increase in the number of packets (small parcels).
Indeed, the first quadrimester of 2016 saw a 54% increase as compared to preceding period.

1 Sorting centres that process international flows
2 Roissy Hub – Roissy International – PIAC Roissy