What is a Port Community System?

A Port Community System is a neutral digital collaboration platform that optimizes, automates and secures all processes involved in goods transit, linking together all public and private organizations in logistics, port and airport chains.

Background

Port Community Systems (PCS) came into being in Europe in the late 1970s and early 1980s. British, German, French and Spanish PCSs stood out as global precursors. The platforms offered fairly similar features and services. However, the extent of the systems – in terms of connected businesses and geographic and functional scope, and the type and number of transactions managed – varied from country to country. These digital tools are tailored to their users, based on local practices and regulations and the organization of professional communities.

The implementation of a PCS is recognized as a highly structural project for economies, strengthening the competitiveness and reliability of ports, regions and countries. Every action and stage in the journey of goods is recorded and timestamped in the system. The resulting transparency helps local authorities to curb parallel economies and preserve government revenues.

International organizations have, moreover, observed considerable improvements in the business climate and economic performance when a PCS is put in place, leading to a better position in the World Bank's *Doing Business* and *Logistics Performance Index* rankings. These efficient digital tools increase attractiveness for foreign investment and foster the growth of foreign trade.

SOGET, the global leader in the field, has been designing and operating Port Community Systems since 1983. It now equips 53 terminals worldwide. Its wide and varied deployment experience now enables the company to master an efficient implementation methodology.

The S)ONE PCS

S)ONE is SOGET's fourth-generation PCS. It is based on the latest technology by Microsoft, of which SOGET has been a Gold partner since 2011, and is one of the most advanced Port Community Systems worldwide thanks to 40 years of customer feedback in facilitating global trade. SOGET's mission is two-fold: reducing goods transit time and simplifying business processes, by automating administrative tasks as far as possible while complying with international standards.

S)ONE centralizes and automates administrative, logistic and commercial data flows linked to goods transit, regardless of the type and means of transport, during import, export and transshipment. Its scope can include:

- A terminal, port or airport, and the warehouses attached;
- A transport corridor of multiple ports, terminals or logistics platforms;
- A region or country and all points of entry, exit or transit of goods, including border posts, sea and river ports, airports, and logistics platforms in the hinterland.

S)ONE is an opportunity to switch from paper-based to 100% digital systems, and to automate all processes required for goods transit. For example, S)ONE digitizes and automates:

- Announcements and declarations: manifests, booking, bill of lading, stuffing, stripping, empty container management, etc.;
- Movements: entry, exit, loading, unloading, etc.;
- Authorizations from port authorities, government agencies, customs or private organizations;
- Permits: import or export licenses, specific permits, etc.;
- Tracking and tracing in real time with customizable notifications and journaling.

S)ONE is a universal system that can be interfaced with any information belonging to any type of organization of any size, using any data interchange format.

S)ONE is recognized by local and international authorities as a "Trusted" source of reference data. One of S)ONE's leaps forward in the PCS field is the integration of Business Intelligence features for collecting and processing data. S)ONE provides statistics and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), monitoring dashboards and decision aids, such as reports on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) from S)ONE Green, generating even more added value for users.