

Innovative and Digital Customs Technology Solutions and Services

2025





- 1) NEXT Customs: a Circle Group company
- 2) Digital services and innovative customs pathways
- 3) Customs innovations and digital tools to support
- 4) References and Success Cases







NEXT Customs: a Circle Group company



Corporate Overview – Highlights

CIRCLE Group is an international player specialised in the analysis and development of innovative digitization solutions for port and intermodal logistics and in international consultancy with focus on Green Deal and energy transition headed by CIRCLE S.p.A.

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Since October 2018

listed on Euronext Growth Milan

Main products

Milos®: innovative software focused on intermodal logistic operations dedicated to inland & port terminals, MTOs & maritime agencies

Sinfomar: extended Port Community System connecting all players & processes involved in port

MasterSped®: evolutive platform for customs operators

Federative Services, TAP & GSCV solutions

StarTracking®: airport-to-airport tracking solution with real-time status updates

More than 30%

of revenues (CIRCLE) realised outside Italy; focus on Southern Europe, Mediterranean area, Black Sea and Middle East

EU Affairs Consultancy

EU Funding Accelerator: developing successful applications for funding

Advocacy: Visual and Brand Identity, Web Design, Social Media Management, Events, PR/Press, Roadshows

International Consultancy: policy making and strategic technical orientations in the port, maritime and transport field

110*

direct employees and a network of professionals

5 successful M&As since end of 2017

51% of Info.Era, specialised in software development with experience in the port sector through Sinfomar®

100% of Progetto Adele, specialised in the development of vertical software systems for the Supply Chain

51% of Log@Sea, company network specialised in logistic nodes automation using OCR and IOT technologies

51% of MagellanCircle, advocacy services towards European institutions

51% of Cargo Start, Innovative Start-up providing innovative technological products and services for operators of the air cargo field.

Revenues € 10.9 mln (+17% vs 2021)

Ebitda: € 2 m

Ebitda Margin: 18%

Circle Net Profit: € 0.83 m

NFP ADJ: € 2.9 mln (cash € 1.8 m)

Financial Year 2022

*October 2023





Corporate Overview – Group Structure



Digital Transport Document (e-CMR)





Gate Automation



Air cargo integrated solutions



Innovative Customs Solutions



Circle

Intermodal Logistics

EU Consultancy



EU Consultancy



Freight Forwarding



Optimisation



Rail undertaking solutions



CPM & Consultancy



Operative Human Resources



IT networking, security and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)



Hydrogen Decarbonisation





Complementary technologies



The value added in Customs and Supply Chain

Vocational training in customs

Foster interoperability among
actors by providing a
comprehensive and harmonized
view of new legal and regulatory
frameworks



To better understand the needs of operators and to meet their needs, we created a survey.



Broad knowledge of the Customs landscape as applied to Transportation and Logistics and Supply Chain

Support in the operational and regulatory management of customs activities (commercial and industrial operations)









Digital services and innovative customs pathways



Main Technology Services and Areas of Activity (1)



APPROVED LOCATION



TEMPORARY CUSTODY

- ✓ Allows you to perform, thanks to the associated Authorized Consignee and Authorized Consignor authorizations, import and export customs operations at your own warehouse or yard.
- ✓ Eliminates the risk of stops at the port as well as the resulting costs.
- ✓ Allows, in case of verifications, to carry them out "at home."
- ✓ Ensures effective management of customs documentation.

- ✓ Allows the introduction of goods coming from non-EU countries by allowing them to stay for up to 90 days at the end of which it will be necessary to provide a subsequent customs destination.
- ✓ Key factor for obtaining the fast corridor procedure.
- √ Allows direct movement from the port to its warehouses



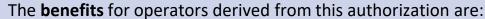


Main Technology Services and Areas of Activity (2)

AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR (AEO)

The Authorized Economic Operator is a figure deemed reliable by the Customs Agency on the territory of the European Union, who can therefore benefit from advantages and facilities with customs and public authorities, consequently offering a complete and facilitated service to business partners.

It is divided into **AeoC** and **AeoS** depending on the needs of the applicant, who by necessity may also decide to obtain both (**AEO C+S**) to exploit the benefits derived from it.



- easier access to customs simplifications
- √ fewer physical and documentary controls
- ✓ priority treatment at the control stage
- ✓ possibility of requesting a specific place for controls
- ✓ better customer service
- ✓ reduced timelines in shipments.

Generally speaking, the reliability associated with AEO subjects is also relevant for **national customs simplifications** as the Customs Agency over time has issued measures that provide favourable treatment for holders of this status.







Main Technology Services and Areas of Activity (3)

FAST CORRIDOR

Controlled corridors offer the possibility of transferring goods in foreign state between temporary custody warehouses, they are called **Fast Corridor** as they drastically reduce the time the goods stay in the port spaces by allowing all customs checks and formalities to be transferred directly to destination.

Fast corridors require AeoC authorisation of the departure and destination warehouses and are divided into road and rail transport.

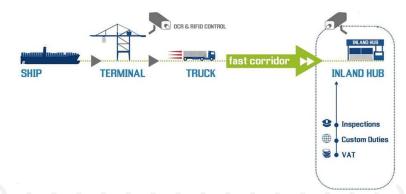
For both, the conditions imposed by customs include tracking of goods and proper handling as well as storage of T.C. consignments.

The advantages and benefits of using Fast Corridors by AeoC permit holders are:

- √ decongestion of port areas
- √ reduced costs associated with stopovers
- ✓ increased security through the combination of documentary checks and physical monitoring of the flow of goods
- ✓ Digitalisation of the entire process.

Today, **+35** Controlled Corridors are active: <u>the full list</u> can be viewed here









Air Fast Transfer



The Fast Transfer procedure is introduced to apply the customs corridor concept used in the maritime context to cargo traveling by air.

This procedure is part of the digitization of airports and provides for the transfer of non-Union goods stored at temporary airport custody to temporary custody located outside the airport grounds in order to subsequently carry out customs clearance operations.

The Fast Transfer process is fully automated and uses a digitized transfer corridor that allows through a monitoring platform the geolocation and tracking of the goods by the customs.

The benefits derived allow for more efficient management of import flows through increased security of the procedure, complete digitization of the process, and a drastic reduction in the time goods spend in temporary custody warehouses.

In terms of procedure, Fast Transfer offers much freedom to the operator in charge of the manifest who has the option of designating the controlled corridor after the arrival of the goods and validation of the manifest.





Simplifications to and from Non-EU countries (1)



INTERNATIONAL FAST & SECURE TRADE LANES

- The International Fast & Secure Trade Lanes project is introduced in order to implement digitization and document dematerialization
 of maritime processes.
- The purpose of this project is to **simplify information and document flows**, which exist today, through the use of **IoT** (Internet of Things) **devices**.
- The simplifications made possible by this technology allow for the early exchange of information between the different players in the logistics chain and ensure the security and traceability of goods through the use of innovative RFID seals that allow operators to take advantage of further simplifications such as customs clearance of goods at sea.





International Fast & Secure Trade Lanes – Pilot Project

International Corridors Italy Vs Morocco -Turkey - Egypt

Next Customs is working on the development of the International Fast & Secure Trade Lane project, an End to End solution aimed at optimizing maritime, logistics and transportation processes, simplifying and integrating information flows through the use of the Internet of Things and standardizing and digitizing document flows

Benefits:

- Full visibility of goods, reduction of manual errors and increased speed for shared documentation thanks to digitization of information flows between the actors involved in the process
- **Security guarantees** through the integration of new technologies and digital tools to create information flows with control of operations and events that occur
- Take advantage of simplified customs procedures through the exchange of information with and between customs administrations
- Automating, speeding up operations and reducing container break-ins through the implementation of IoT devices



Photos of the pilot project







Simplifications to and from Non-EU countries (2)



SMART TERMINAL



IN-FLIGHT CLEARANCE

- The smart terminal is a procedure introduced in order to anticipate the declarations necessary for the customs clearance of goods. In fact, it provides for the release of Mrn consignments generated by the arrival manifest by validating it at sea.
- It is applied to the import cargo of ships from non-EU countries, allows declarants and customs the early presentation and control of the consignments and for terminals and customs warehouses to organize the ship's disembarkation of containers in advance.
- It thus streamlines and speeds up, through advance information, traffic in port areas and procedures related to the exit of goods from the port.

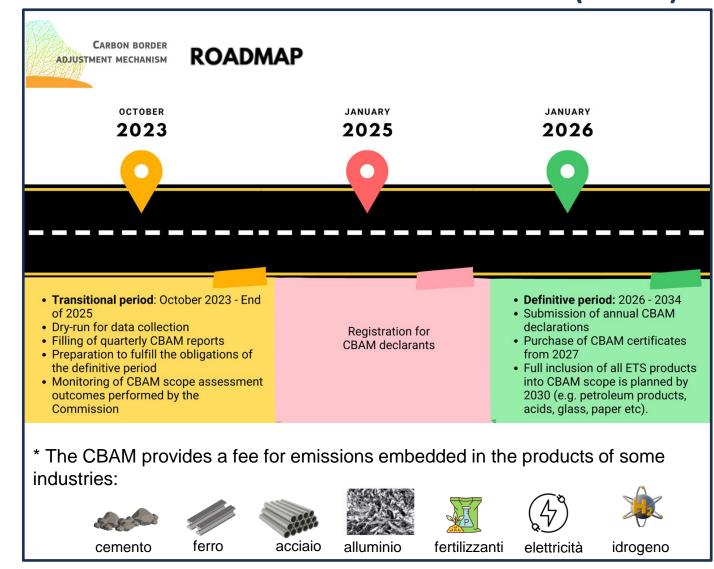
- In-flight customs clearance, which is already used in the context of international couriers, is a process that follows the logic of preclearance, i.e., the advance clearance of the goods to the foreign state that in this case travels by air.
- This process simplifies and facilitates the movement of goods by allowing them to be scheduled and forwarded to the consignee without further communication to airport Handlers.
- Upon arrival at the terminal, goods that take advantage of this
 procedure are immediately released and are then sorted for delivery
 anticipating all of the expected customs processing.





Regulatory Adjustments: Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

- ✓ The CBAM is an import tax on carbon emissions that occur during the production of certain carbon-intensive products imported* into the EU from countries with lower environmental standards than the EU.
- √ The CBAM was introduced by Regulation 2023/956 and will be levied in the form of the sale of CBAM certificates. The price of CBAM certificates will be calculated based on EU Emissions Trading System ("ETS") prices.
- √ The aim is to ensure that efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the EU are not undermined by a simultaneous increase in emissions from outside the EU for goods imported into the EU.
- ✓ According to the Regulation, unless amended, the "final" phase is scheduled for January 1, 2026. The first CBAM declaration, covering goods imported in calendar year 2026, is due by May 31, 2027.







CBAM compliance

Circle Group's solutions are fully CBAM compliant and already allows for automatic report generation.

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Example of a record automatically generated by MasterSPED® CBAM-compliant

DIREZIONE DOGANE

AVVISO

CBAM - ACCESSO AL PORTALE

Roma, 30 novembre 2023 - Si segnala che, a seguito dell'attivazione del Ro della Commissione, avvenuta il 1 ottobre 2023, sarà possibile per tutti effettuare, dal 4 dicembre 2023, la richiesta di autorizzazione per l'acc dedicato ai dichiaranti e iniziare, dal giorno successivo in ambiente di tutte le funzionalità attivate al suo interno.

A tal proposito sono disponibili le istruzioni operative per i dichiarar accesso alla pagina web del Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza E delle Dogane e dei Monopoli.

Si invitano inoltre tutti i soggetti interessati a visitare periodicamente i seg

CBAM per poter disporre delle informazioni aggiornate e conoscere eventuali novita:

Commissione Europea - DG TAXUD: https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/carbon

Autorità Nazionale CBAM: https://www.ets.minambiente.it/NovitaEUETS/CBAM

Agenzia delle dogane e dei Monopoli: https://www.adm.gov.it/portale/cbam-carbon border-adjustment-mechanism

Per informazioni aggiuntive o altre eventuali problematiche si invitano i dichiaranti a contattare l'Autorità Nazionale CBAM all'indirizzo e-mail authority.cbam@euets.it

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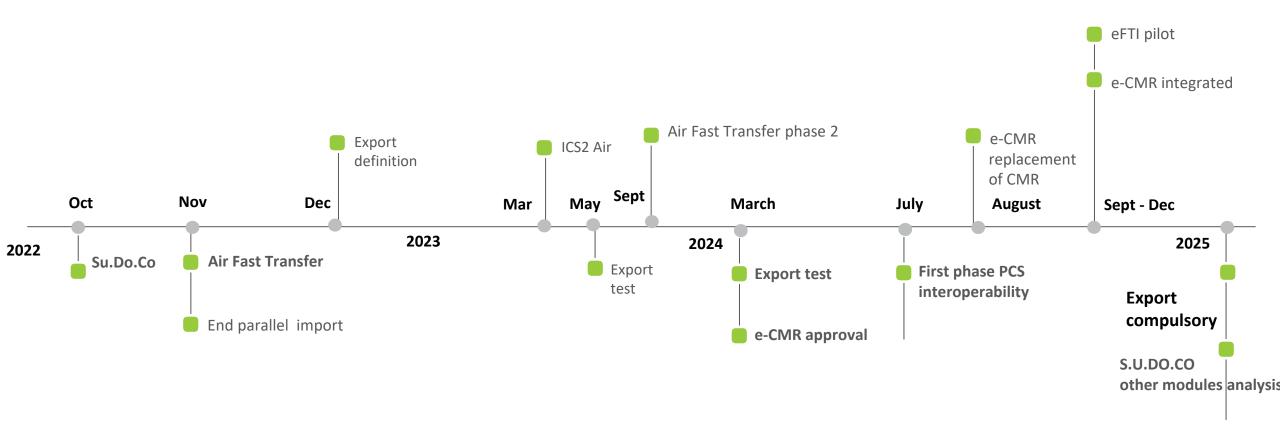




Customs innovations and digital tools to support



2024 - 2025 Customs Roadmap







Main digitization services

	DIGITAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT TEMPORARY CUSTODY, FISCAL, CUSTOMS, COMMUNITY	DIGITAL MANAGEMENT OF CUSTOMS MANIFESTATIONS for AGENCIES					
\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	Automatic Dialogues With Aida Interoperability with Ports & Port Community System (PCS) Interoperability with Terminal & Terminal Operating System (TOS) Temporary Custody Register Management - Fiscal - Customs – Community	 ✓ Outbound and Inbound Freight Manifests (MMP and MMA) ✓ ENS - Entry Summary Declaration ✓ EXS - Exit Summary Declaration ✓ Interoperability with PCS for Info_Merchandise service 					
✓	CUSTOMS FAST CORRIDOR DIGITAL MANAGEMENT Customs Corridor Management	DIGITAL SERVICES for SHIPPERS - CUSTOMS TRANSITARIES					
✓	GPS Vendor Interoperability	 ✓ Management of customs declarations of any type ✓ Simplified customs procedures 					







References and Success Cases



Customs digital procedures



Challenge

IKEA, multinational company that designs and sells home furnishings, has a strategic logistics hub in Piacenza (Italy). From this place goods are distributed to Italy, North Med and Middle East.

The process of customs clearance, for goods coming from non – EU countries, must occur at the time the container is discharged, so the time of arrival at destination, and their availability in the warehouse, is heavily affected from customs and port activities.









Solution

- Implementation of the suite "Global Supply Chain Visibility"
- Development of specific integration among IT systems of IKEA and port, customs and logistic actors
- Implementation Track & Trace and simplified customs procedures

Benefits

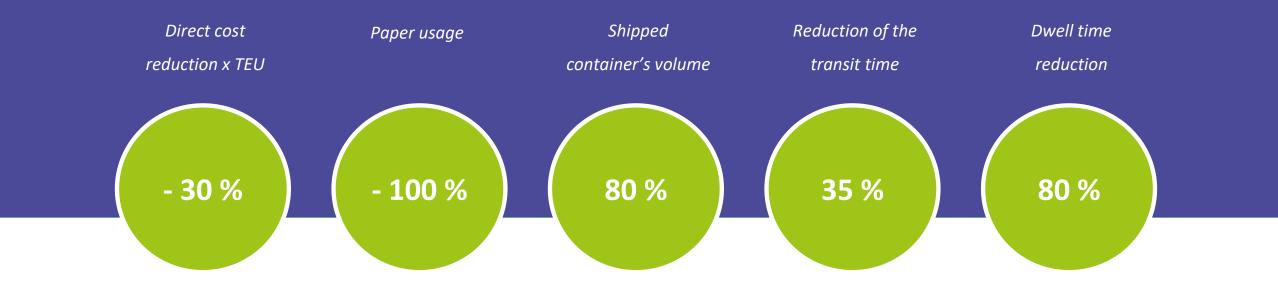
- ☐ Information in real time on a single dashboard
- Integration with Customs and Port Security information
- ☐ Digitalisation of custom procedures in import and export
- ☐ Full digital platform able to share documents
- "Certified Information" arising from the use of IoT devices

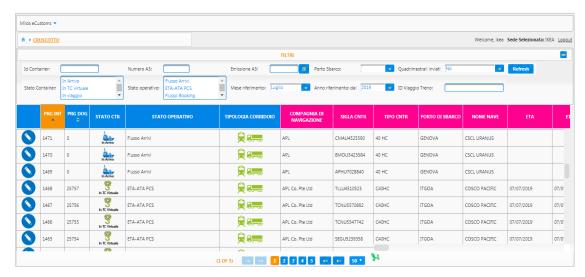




Customs digital procedures







Implemented Services

- ☐ Track & Trace
 - (Transport Federative Platform)
- ☐ Simplified Customs Procedures
 (Fast Corridor)



WorldWide



2014



S.U.Do.Co (Sportello Unico Doganale dei Controlli)



Challenge

Circle Group participated alongside the Port System Authority of the Eastern Ligurian Sea and the Customs and Monopolies Agency in the start of the operational experimentation of S.U.DO.CO, with the first case of concrete application in the Port of La Spezia and the CUS of Santo Stefano Magra (in collaboration with La Spezia Port Service) to enable a subsequent extension of S.U.DO.CO to all Italian ports.







Sfida del progetto

SEA is the managing company of the **Milan Malpensa and Linate airports,** offering cargo services including air cargo handling, ancillary services, customs services, road cargo services, booking of space on board aircrafts services.

In 2021, the company handled 743k tons of cargo (over 70% of the Italian total), with an increase of 44.6% YOY.

Growing volumes of traffic require increasingly lean and fast customs procedures to speed up and reduce waiting times.





Solutions

- "Air Fast Transfer", to apply the Customs Corridor model already used in the maritime sector.
- Development of digital integration among actors of the chain, such as Customs Agency, Airport Handlers, Carriers and Airlines Companies.





Benefits

- Decongestion of airport areas
- ☐ Reduction of dwell times by cargo in the airport warehouses
- reduction of travel times
- greater security
- Digitalization of the process







Challenge

F2i Holding Port represents one of Italy's leading port hubs, particularly in the General Cargo sector and in the strategic sourcing of some of Italy's main industrial supply chains, active in the Upper Adriatic and Tyrrhenian seas. The group operates logistics platforms at sites in Carrara, Livorno, Monfalcone and Venice, creating a strategic asset connecting the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian seas to support the competitiveness of Italian industry.





Solutions

- Mapping of organizational processes and responsibilities in relation to the customs activities performed;
- The delivery of a series of training sessions on customs issues, to FHP staff;





Benefits

- Study and definition of a set of organizational and technological procedures (and tools), capable of pursuing the strategic development of the approach to managed customs procedures.
- The analysis of the Information Systems involved in the customs processes and the definition of the basic TO-BE requirements, preparatory to the decision about the new software to be adopted.





Terminali Italia



Challenge

Terminali Italia is the company of Rete Ferroviaria Italiana in charge of managing terminal services within the networked intermodal freight terminals. It offers first and last mile rail services such as terminal access, handling, intermodal transportation unit (UTI) and rail shunting services. Connected to their core business is also international freight transportation for which they offer an origin and destination point along land and sea routes. The activities and business strategies adopted by the group, are aimed at the revitalization and development of rail transport with projects directed at the modernization and integration between sea and rail transport and with a view to increasing the development of rolling stock interoperability between rail networks.





Solutions

- Consulting for obtaining "AEO" certification to take advantage of the benefits and facilities offered by customs to authorized operators
- Temporary Digital Custody and Fast corridor services for the proper management of CT, Mrn lots and digitization of information and document flows.





- ☐ Facilitated access to customs simplifications
- ☐ Reduction of physical and documentary controls
- ☐ Ability to request a specific location for control
- ☐ Reduction in customs port transit and customs clearance time at destination
- ☐ Reduction in overall transportation costs



Thank you

Luca Abatello & Team Specialists CEO & President



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