

Flexible TOS software for any budget and a wide range of applications

Esware B.V., Barendrecht, The Netherlands

For small and newly established terminals confronted with huge investments, finding a TOS geared to their requirements and, in particular, their budget is a struggle. Based in Rotterdam, Copas B.V. designs its software and TOS products with the needs of smaller terminals in mind. Esware B.V. distributes Copas' software for terminals from its office in Rotterdam, managed by Mr. Frans Jol, who has extensive experience in the terminal business.

Copas is headed by former senior management of Europe's biggest container terminal, with over 40 years experience in port and terminal operations, supported by 16 dedicated analysts and software developers. They understand the need of any terminal, small or large, to be able to use a comprehensive set of functions, from graphical planning systems to advanced EDI-systems. To date, the affordable Copas TOS software has been successfully installed on more than 14 'wet' and 'dry' terminals throughout Europe and the UK, and modules have also been installed in Holland and Sharjah, UAE.

Esware B.V.'s integrated container control system for terminals is STEP2, which was developed using modern tools, like Java, and uses SQL-compatible database situations such as MS SQL-server, Oracle or Open Source Databases as a database tool, which ensures safe and reliable storage of valuable data. Using a VPN-connection, Esware staff can assist customers with the necessary system management or support tasks. Management reports can be made using a standard report generator.

The YARD Planning & Viewer software, a module of the STEP2 container control system, has also been developed using advanced Java techniques. YARD communicates with the STEP2 database to obtain container data in real-time. YARD shows the current status of the container yard, and all containers therein. Certain containers – from a certain vessel or for a certain destination, etc. – can be identified, and their exact location pinpointed in the yard. YARD automatically determines the optimal location in which to place newly arrived containers, and can then communicate this planned location to the reachstacker driver via the RFnet module (see below).

Other modules of the STEP2 system include:

- **GATEwiz**ard assists the gate clerk with entry and retrieval of data from the database for truck arrival and departure; container pick-up and delivery, customs release, operator release, etc.
- **RFnet** maintains a communication channel to each active Radio Data Terminal in the yard, whether in terminal buildings, equipment or handheld ancillary computers used by checkers.
- **EDI-STEP** uses safe and secure communication channels to automatically send and receive EDI-messages. These messages are automatically converted from their internal format to the agreed format, and vice-versa.
- **E-Terminal** is an Internet-based interface for the terminal's customers, which can generate real-time container status; tracking release orders, order entry, vessel calls, feeder/train planning and various other reports.



A screen-shot from EYard, STEP2's graphical yard planning and monitoring module.

- **TIS Terminal Invoicing System** automatically stores all data on container moves, stocking days, contracts, and all other relevant data on the database, and also generates draft invoices. At any time, the invoicing clerk can start invoicing the process for a certain customer or vessel etc.
- **PLANMASTER** is a professional vessel planning tool in use by many terminals and shipping lines all over the world. PLANMASTER interfaces with STEP2 and YARD. Data entry can be kept to an absolute minimum using EDI messages and the data from STEP2 and YARD.
- **VSS Visual Security System** covers all new European laws and ISPS rules. It offers a closed security system within ports by using key cards for all people entering the port area. Video cameras can also be added to the system, which can then be connected via E-Terminal.

STEP2 also has a specialized module tracking the movements of RoRo cargo (RoRo-trailers), which can also be used for planning, full administration and invoicing on the terminal via EDI and other communication methods. As well as Copas, Esware also represents Refrigerated Transport Electronics (RTE), a US-based company that has developed software for monitoring reefer temperatures aboard vessels, but also for container, barge or rail terminals. Features include supervision of reefers' actual condition, pre-trip maintenance, downloads of trip reports, set point charges, power management, bay/yard view, and a container arrival and departure log.

Based in Rotterdam and Hong Kong, ARL-shipping.com Limited has also teamed up with Esware to sell each other's products around the world. ARL provides innovative and configurable e-Services to the global transport community. ARL's specialist TOS applications for the port industry include berth planner software, resource demand managers, RTG deployer/dispatcher, yard clash predictor, lashing planner and quay crane visualizer.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Based in The Netherlands, **Esware B.V.** was formed in 2009 when the company took over the Italian-based Esware Srl., which was founded in 1994. Esware B.V. is the marketing and sales company responsible for the distribution of dedicated software for container terminals, inland and rail terminals around the world, as well as specialized software for vessel planning, ship agents and forwarding companies.

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