



NEWS RELEASE

350 Old Airport Road
Wooster OH 44691
330.264.7400

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 30, 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Deb Jenkins, Corporate Administrative Coordinator – deb.jenkins@dsdistribution.com
330.264.7400 Ext. 1915

D+S Distribution Ready for Next Level Supply Chain Management *Investing in people, technology & infrastructure is key*

WOOSTER-- The coming year will bring adjustments and variations to supply chain management across all areas from the movement and storage of raw materials to door-delivery for the end consumer. As predicted by the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP), the growing role of third-party logistics (3PL) will continue to be a vital service by providing solutions to warehousing, inventory management, packaging and freight forwarding and transportation.

Capacity is a driving force behind innovation and change in the supply chain according to Amy Wunderlin of *Supply & Demand Chain Executive*. Outsourcing supply chain management to a value-added 3PL company provides businesses with a reliable logistics advantage over competitors and keeps a company focused on its core competencies. Over 80 percent of D+S Distribution customers utilize the company's supply chain and value-added operations.

"Supply Chain Management is an integral part of our business and it is essential to company success and customer satisfaction. The customer base relies on our expertise in the industry to create and execute customized supply chain solutions for their business needs. Investing in professional development, technology and infrastructure are top priorities," said **Jon Ansel, President of D+S Distribution**.

On the personnel side, **Mick Bolon, Vice President of Operations at D+S Distribution** recently completed the SCPro™ Level One certification. The accreditation is governed by CSCMP and is recognized as the most comprehensive certification available in the industry. SCPro certification is a three-tiered program aimed at verifying an individual's supply chain knowledge and skills. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements before applying and earn 60 continuing education units to maintain certificate status. "Mick's dedication to secure this coveted certification is commendable," added Ansel.

Technology

It is not surprising that technology is the key to more efficient and flexible operations. Today's operations teams and supply chain managers are more reliant on systems than ever before. In 2018, more supply chains will move to digital processes. D+S Distribution continues to invest, expand and energize its IT campaign. The D+S infrastructure provides 100 percent uptime during a 12-hour period Monday through Saturday with an automatic fail-over/fail-back to and from a secondary server. Data replication and network security are also top priorities for the IT Team.

On the transportation side Integrated Logistics Services (ILS), an affiliated entity of D+S Distribution, offers a comprehensive inbound and outbound shipping program under a powerful logistics platform. ILS has a Cloud-based system that provides continual, real-time client information. Visual data tools and dashboards show client freight spending and load volume 24/7 in multiple dimensions. Clients can research load volume, cost-per-pound, cost-per-mile and cost-per-load plus a variety of other points according to **Kevin Trent, Vice President of D+S Distribution**. Clients also have the option to build their own, customized dashboards and reports.

Infrastructure

Over the last two years, the D+S ownership team reinvested more than \$1.5 million in fixed assets and infrastructure in efforts to better serve the customer base according to Ansel. The company purchased additional tow motors, replaced a roof and upgraded security surveillance at its warehouse facilities. A hallmark of the ownership team is transforming old, abandon buildings into viable operating spaces. The last renovation was the old Bauer Ladder building in Wooster, Ohio, which is now the Bowman facility. Put on a fast track to accommodate urgent client needs, the 45-day reconstruction project was one of the most extensive and challenging to date. The Bowman Street location was only one of several properties renovated and repurposed by D+S Distribution. The Regal facility, Nichols B building, the Wooster Industrial Center (WIC) and even the corporate office were saved and updated.

According the logistic experts, supply chains will continue to grow more complex and interdependent. Supply chain managers and 3PL companies must look for ways to partner. "Collaboration is crucial as supply chains become more and more complex with multiple suppliers in multiple locations. It is not enough to focus on supply chain execution. We need to concentrate on the ability to sense changes and patterns in demand and in the environment," said Ansel.

####