



# KANSAS CITY IS LOGISTICALLY CONNECTED

## AND HOME TO SUPPLY CHAIN TECHNOLOGY

When Gary Quint talks about the advantages of doing business in Kansas City, he can point to a variety of reasons – but one word stands out. **Intermodal.**

Quint is Director of Sales & Marketing for Commenco, LLC, an authorized Motorola dealer. Established since 1951, the business is now active in the digital age and is on a mission to “connect everyone, everything, everywhere.”

With the Logistics Park Kansas City (LPKC) on the BNSF Railway, the CenterPoint Intermodal Center on the Kansas City Southern Railway, and Kansas City International Airport with its air freight connections, Quint says the area is well established for rail-truck and air-truck supply chain logistics.

Commenco serves a major distributor at LPKC and is actively working to expand that. They provide voice and data communications at the KCS-served park, as well as services to numerous national land carriers, including one that works in all three logistics parks.

**“Every time you transfer product, there is a need to make sure everyone involved knows at the same time,”** Quint said.

“There are **tremendous growth opportunities for warehousing, distribution centers and third-party logistics (3PLs) here, and a lot of it is due to our intermodal facilities,**” Quint said.



## CREATING THE 'SINGLE PANE OF GLASS'

Mike Markham, Director of Business Technology Solutions, noted there is now a lot of pressure on companies to keep small inventory, which means they must also have the ability to ship very quickly.

**“You must get the product from point A to point B to point C in a continuous flowing manner,”** Markham said. This means that all key data – manufacturing output, inventory and shipping – should have great visibility to all parties at all times.

***“We call it the ‘single pane of glass’,”*** Markham said, referring to the technology that ties all this data together. ***“By leveraging the cloud, and with the right technology tools, our clients can manage orders, perform customer service, control inventory and make shipments from a single application.”***

Technology continues to advance in warehousing. Wearables include scanners strapped to wrists or on the finger tips, and voice command systems allow pickers to work hands-free and eyes-free. These devices are also now bilingual.

Commenco ([www.commenco.com](http://www.commenco.com)) provides mobile devices, ruggedized scanners and tablets, two-way radios, Wi-Fi, barcode printers, closed-circuit cameras and software to make the supply chain operate as smoothly as possible. Commenco’s consulting service helps logistics operators get the most out of their products. But technology continues to move forward.

“Artificial intelligence (AI) is making advances in software and devices,” Markham said. *“AI continuously analyzes information, and it can make decisions on how to route and pack shipments. AI is where the next big opportunity lies.”*

Robotics in warehousing is also rapidly moving forward, and can greatly improve accuracy while lowering overhead costs. Bar coding is starting to be embedded in the actual product, and RFID tags are now reemerging on the market.

**“RFID** was all the rage about a dozen years ago,” Markham said, “due to an initiative from Walmart that all of their suppliers use the technology. But it was very expensive then, so it never took off. However, the cost has dropped dramatically since then and is **starting to make a comeback.**”



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