Leaping Across Boundaries

An Advanced Multifaceted Trading Company Capturing the Needs of the Moment

Today’s business activities take place across various boundaries—spanning different countries, time zones, languages, cultures, markets, and business practices. Commercial chain and logistics are the integral players who assist these boundaries that require speed and innovation.

Our role and mission is optimizing commercial chain and logistics to meet individual client needs as an advanced multifaceted trading company, elevating this work into more strategic services to help ensure rapid and efficient operations. In turn, these activities help our clients achieve future business success and corporate growth.

Nittsu Shoji is the core member of the Nippon Express Group, a leader in international logistics. Our prowess in handling global business is our greatest strength. We are a dependable partner for our clients’ global strategies. By covering all areas of global procurement, overseas production, and multinational trade, Nittsu Shoji lets clients satisfy all their commercial chain/logistics service needs with a single provider.

Nittsu Shoji can take you to the unknown markets and find new arenas of competition. Let us show you how we can pioneer new business by overcoming the boundaries limiting your growth.
Full-Featured Support for Global Supply Chain Optimization and Operations

SCM (supply chain management) is the term used to describe operations designed for comprehensive optimization of all corporate activities spanning procurement, production, and sales. SCM construction and innovation are particularly key priorities for the manufacturing industry.

Supply chain management is the principal service where Nittsu Shoji’s potential comes into its own. We work in every value-adding SCM stage by proposing optimum logistics systems and providing a wide range of logistics services such as export packaging and JIT (just-in-time) delivery methods. And with services ranging from global procurement to import/export agency work and logistics insurance, we also provide comprehensive support for global supply chain optimization and operations through a broad lineup of commercial distribution services all under one roof.

Helping improve cash flows by holding products as Nittsu Shoji assets during commercial distribution.

Insurances products designed to handle various logistics risks by providing compensation in the event of accidents or losses.

Sales/leasing of a vast range of logistics equipment for maintaining logistics. Cross border leasing spanning multiple countries is also supported.

Troubleshooting customer clearance processes and payment settlement work for procurement parts/materials done on behalf of clients. Unified packages of logistics services needed for importing/exporting are also provided.

Holding procurement parts/materials as Nittsu Shoji assets to assist clients with off-balance sheet stock and improving cash flows.

Help with procuring parts and materials driven by a global network and information-gathering ability.

Global procurement

Procurement Stage

Import/export agency services

JIT delivery

JIT (just-in-time) delivery of parts and materials meeting the needs of production lines.

Assembly of gathered parts and materials. Delivery to the client-specified location and destination at the specified time and with the specified format and quality. Concurrent elimination of excess, waste, and irregularity in client production logistics activities.

Services integrated and in sync with client business activities

Nittsu Shoji can provide commercial distribution/logistics services covering every supply chain process, all under one roof. These all-inclusive capabilities create supply chains that are integrated and in sync with client business activities, maximizing their effectiveness.

Nittsu Shoji’s True Capability: Advanced Multifaceted Trading Company
Worldwide Commercial Chain/Logistics Services

Dubbed the ‘Detroit of the East,’ Thailand’s Pinthong industrial area is where the large number of Japanese and Western automakers have opened production bases. Nittsu Shoji’s Pinthong Logistics Support Center provides logistics support linked directly to the production lines of a Japanese motorcycle manufacturer. Parts procured from suppliers in Thailand, neighboring countries, and Japan are collected, grouped, and stored, then provided to the production lines as needed. Completed motorcycles are stored and retrieved using RFID-based contact-free automatic data recognition technology. After quality checks, the finished products are packaged for export in compliance with shipping country specifications, then shipped to their destinations overseas. Nittsu Shoji is highly familiar with manufacturer production operations, and draws on a high level of logistics expertise to assist the motorcycle manufacturer’s supply chain.

Commercial distribution/logistics services assisting corporate overseas expansion

Nittsu Shoji provides an extensive lineup of commercial chain/logistics services for the companies shifting production bases overseas. We can handle the packaging and transport of manufacturing machinery needed when opening a plant, along with equipment leasing, part procurement, import/export agency services, and export packaging work. Using local market information, we can also coordinate all the operations needed to achieve optimum logistics for the targeted products as a seamless package. Nittsu Shoji excels at cross-border commercial chain/logistics service packages designed to help solve various problems encountered by companies expanding overseas.

Purchasing service to accelerate global procurement

Sourcing parts internationally is an unavoidable reality for today’s manufacturers. Some of the difficulties it involves are procurement/logistics chains spanning multiple countries, troublesome customs clearance procedures, and demands for JIT delivery. Problems with product stock and cash flows can also create conflicts of interest between manufacturers and suppliers that hamper procurement. Nittsu Shoji provides a purchasing service to resolve these problems. Temporary holding procurement parts as Nittsu Shoji assets can help with off-balance sheet stock and cash flows, creating major benefits for both the supplier and manufacturer.

Packaging designed to satisfy export requirements

Packaging is the key to increasing supply chain efficiency and export quality. Nittsu Shoji has worked in packaging operations for over 50 years, accumulating dependable skills and a wealth of expertise over the time. Our site-, product- and situation-focused approach ensures packaging designed to eliminate undesired waste, and unevenness on a product-by-product basis. Eliminating or simplifying packaging is a goal for transportation. The right packaging design creates benefits such as reducing work time, cutting costs, enabling JIT delivery, and lowering environmental impact. Along with general packaging needs, we also meet a wide range of specialized needs such as vibration-proof/buffered packaging for ultra-precision equipment.

High-quality services in Japan and overseas

Nittsu Shoji’s own branded global network is centered in Asia and encompasses a staff of over 1,200 employees working at 13 local companies and 23 bases spanning nine countries. The Logistics Support Centers in Thailand and Indonesia provide SCM support for international commercial distribution and packaging operations. Local companies in cities such as Hong Kong, Singapore, and Shanghai work to improve global procurement. Nittsu Shoji’s overseas offices are in Japan and overseas. Nittsu Shoji helps companies do business worldwide by providing services that seamlessly span international borders.
Special vehicles that address difficult transport needs

Nittsu Shoji creates just the right vehicle in case of necessity. We handle everything from development to design and production of special vehicle body equipment and special trailers. Our technical expertise has been widely recognized, and we have taken part in a large number of transport projects to move freight ranging from Shinansen train parts to wind turbine blades. We have developed and delivered a large selection of special vehicle and equipment customized to unusual freight. For instance, the wind turbine blade project involved developing a mechanism for raising and turning a blade mounted on a transporter in a special transport vehicle.

Freight containers opening up the way towards logistics innovations

Nittsu Shoji has developed an array of freight containers for various transport modes and types of freight, and many of them have created logistics innovations. One example, redeveloped with Nippou Express is a 40-foot international shipping container with two side wings. It is the world’s first international shipping container of this size to feature wing-opening panels on both sides. It enables loading operations from the side that were previously impossible, improving loading efficiency and enabling warehouse-free logistics. The wings can also be opened and closed manually without an external power source. This innovative shipping container won a special prize at the 2014 Logistics Environment Awards sponsored by the Japan Association for Logistics and Transport.

Advanced technology for greater logistics transparency

In 2006, Nittsu Shoji became the first Japanese company to adopt a transport system driven by RFID-based contact-free automatic data recognition technology. The system is designed to improve freight status transparency, helping prevent relayery errors and lost items. In compliance with CTPTA (Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism), Nittsu Shoji’s Tokyo LS Center and Sayama LS Center have started introducing an advanced security system driven by IC tag technology. The system is part of our efforts to step up security measures for international trade to better ensure the safety of freight for export.

Technology innovations that think ahead for the future

In 2013, Nittsu Shoji embarked on a project to develop the world’s first ‘Conversion eTrucks’ by replacing the engines in existing trucks with electric motors. The project is being done in partnership with Japan Post Transport, Ehime Prefecture, Sankyo Auto, and the Association for the Promotion of Electric Vehicles. A prototype truck was completed in 2015, and demonstration testing began under various road conditions on actual transport routes. We are planning to soon release eTrucks or package kits that will let users convert diesel trucks to electric vehicles, helping reduce the environmental impact of logistics work.

Development, Technology, and Manufacturing Prowess for Logistics Innovation

Nittsu Shoji develops, designs, and manufactures containers, transportation equipment, and transport vehicles needed to move freight by land, sea, and air. This transport can sometimes require solutions to demanding challenges such as higher capacities, greater efficiency, improved safety, lower cost, easier handling, and lower environmental impact. Nittsu Shoji works to meet these demands along with specialized transport needs such as moving oversized freight or ultra-precision equipment. Meeting difficult transport needs sometimes starts with the development of the custom freight containers or special vehicles required. Nittsu Shoji has the can-do attitude and technical expertise that satisfy these demands, and has overcome numerous difficult challenges to date.

A wind turbine blade on its way to a mountain-top construction site. Nittsu Shoji’s development and production expertise was invaluable in developing this special vehicle needed to carry the massive blades along narrow mountain roads through thickly forested terrain.
Unparalleled Performance in the Optimum Formation

Nippon Shoji is composed of nine highly specialized business divisions. Each is able to flexibly maneuver to provide finely tuned services, while gathering resources to address the increasingly complex and advanced needs and issues of corporate clients. Higher-quality services and solutions are provided rapidly by division members working in the optimum formation. Nippon Shoji maximizes the unique strengths we possess as an advanced, multifaceted trading company to help companies thrive amid the uncertainties of today’s rapidly changing business environment.

Logistics Support Division
Provides high-quality international commercial distribution/logistics services from 34 bases in Japan and overseas.

Insurance Division
Provides a broad lineup of insurance products tailored to applications ranging from general corporate risk management to security for individuals.

Global Business Division
Provides business support through the Nippon Express Group’s network of 514 bases in 240 cities and 43 countries.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Division
Supplies LP gas to broad-ranging industrial users and 320,000 homes throughout Japan.

Petroleum Division

Maintenance & Manufacturing Division
Sells and develops all aspects of devices and equipment that construct advanced logistics systems.

Leasing Division
Boasts over 50 years of experience in leasing transport vehicles, logistics equipment, and an extensive range of other items for business use.

Dependable solutions that unfold potential
Global network
Provides clients with optimized global procurement solutions by sourcing procurement parts from suppliers worldwide.

Import/export agency work
Nitto Shoji acts as the importer/exporter to handle troublesome customs and settlement work on behalf of the client.

Just-in-time delivery systems
JIT delivery provided by seamless services covering the entire supply chain processes.

A comprehensive range of capabilities for assisting SCM
To assist SCM activities spanning multiple countries, Nitto Shoji partners with clients to improve the functions of a range of commercial distribution/logistics services that start with global procurement. The Nippon Express Group’s worldwide network is a key factor in our work on global procurement, underpinning a comprehensive range of capabilities that ensure rapid and dependable procurement results.

Global procurement leading to SCM innovations
Nitto Shoji’s global procurement is targeted at boosting overall supply chain efficiency through a broad spectrum of services. We construct and link to stock management and ordering operations, gathering parts from multiple countries at a Nippon Express Group warehouse located at a production base and shipping to the production line in time. The benefits we provide to our clients include flexibility for productions, appropriate stock on hand, shortening lead times, and less paperwork. Nitto Shoji offers the solutions as an expert of global procurement provider such as supply chain innovation.

Consolidation of logistics and finance
Nitto Shoji also provides financial services of value for global procurement. These services enable to consolidate management of the logistics and finance. By purchasing procurement parts and temporarily holding them as assets, both the supplier and buyer enjoy several benefits—product stock holding periods are reduced, accounts receivables are paid more rapidly, accounts payable are deferred, and paperwork is handled more efficiently. Services that combine logistics and finance operations assist client management strategies by helping with off-balance sheet stock and cash flows.

Export Packaging
Packaging solutions for better SCM operations
Packaging plays a key role in boosting supply chain efficiency and cutting costs. Drawing on more than 50 years of experience, Nitto Shoji has accomplished packaging for a variety of requirements. We work actively on developing new packaging materials and containers, looking for ways of reducing environmental impact through effective use of resources and container reuse.

Diverse range of export packaging services
To keep abreast with the global expansion of the manufacturers, Nitto Shoji has built a series of large logistics support (LS) Centers in and around the high-growth areas of southern and eastern Asia. We also operate eight LS Centers and 26 smaller bases in Japan mainly for export packaging. Nitto Shoji’s packaging services are designed to meet client production needs. Our packaging quality and accurate operation give major benefits for improving supply chain rationalization and efficiency.

Optimized designs for more environmentally friendly packaging
We seek to design any types of individual product and optimized for a variety of requirements. Packaging materials are selected to satisfy requirements by several conditions. Our packaging design system is used to optimize the characteristics of packaging such as wooden boxes and steel cases. This system eliminates waste from packaging. It has been successful in reducing scraps and waste, helping reduce disposal costs as a result. We hope these efforts will have a beneficial impact on forestry conservation and effective use of mineral resources, while helping to reduce CO2 emissions.

Pioneering export packaging system
Nitto Shoji has actively embraced the use of IT for modernizing logistics operations, and we have developed a UHF-band IC tag-driven quality control/operation management system for export packaging work first in Japan. It went into operation at the Suzuki LS Center, where it is used as a new transport system for mass-produced automotive parts. This IC tag system makes it possible to develop a global network system with added value in areas such as logistics traceability management and returnable container management.

Packaging design/management
Activities done to standardize and speed up packaging operations using IT resources such as barcodes and QR codes.

C-TPAT
Developed and adopted a security system conforming to the highest security status (Tier III) of the C-TPAT (Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism) program led by the US government.
Super Wing 40
The world’s first open side shipping container that can be fully opened and loaded quickly. Opening and closing of its wing doors does not require electricity, and it can be opened and closed using an electric screwdriver or manual handle.

Specially-Designed Flexible Bulk Container Bags
These bag-shaped, specially-designed flexible bulk container bags for rice were developed and manufactured in collaboration with a client and material manufacturer. They improve storage efficiency and prevent load shifting during transport.

Extensive lineup of equipment and services for rationalizing logistics

We provide an extensive lineup of equipment, systems, and products designed to boost efficiency and save energy on clients’ demands. We can propose the best operation with the choice of products, systems, locations, and provide consulting work and after-sales service. We are experienced in procurement from overseas and sensitive to cost-cutting needs.

Comprehensive support for logistics system construction

We provide a comprehensive lineup of service —everything from consulting through line design, equipment planning, and logistics center construction. Drawing on our wealth of experience and expertise combined with the great variety of proprietary technology developed in-house, we partner with each client to construct the optimum logistics system for their needs. We have constructed automated systems that meet the needs of small lot, high mix, frequent delivery production, as well as transport systems that reduce cost by simplifying operations or reducing manpower requirements. We also sell and rent a wide array of key equipment items for warehousing and logistics operations.

Developing, designing, and manufacturing original packaging materials

Nittsu Shoji excels at developing packaging materials. Examples include special Carson’s for product transport and resource-saving materials that can be reused or used repeatedly. For creating original packaging designs, we rely on our own cardboard manufacturing plant with advanced technical expertise. By drawing on our nationwide network of partner plants, we have been able to create a system for ensuring delivery is always prompt while improving quality and lowering manufacturing costs. We are also active in sourcing packaging materials from overseas, and have created an overseas procurement department at our headquarters.

An extensive lineup of products for a wide array of clients

We sell various office supplies, cardboard cases, and logistics-related consumable materials to Nippon Express Group members, as well as to outside mail order companies and manufacturers of products such as automotive parts and precision equipment. We boast an extensive lineup of products available to address client needs across the board.

Technology Development/Manufacturing

Seeking to create logistics innovations, Nittsu Shoji develops, designs, and manufactures items used in logistics operations. We can produce specially equipped, unique vehicles and pioneer new logistics possibilities. We also have a nationwide network of vehicle repair shops and service stations used to certify, inspect, and repair different types of vehicles. Nittsu Shoji meets strategic logistics needs by developing and manufacturing a collection of freight containers for various customer needs. For example, we have developed a 31-foot large-capacity winged freight container for rail transport called Eco-Liner that is key for enabling transport modal shifts. Our Clean Liner model is a container designed with sanitation, ventilation, and insulation properties enabling food transport use. Our pioneer 40-foot international shipping container model has two side wings to improve loading efficiency and enable warehouse-free logistics. We also offer an extensive lineup of other models including a refrigerated shipping container, a container for dumping industrial waste, and our Bike Box motorcycle container.

Physical Distribution Merchandise & Machinery Division

Nittsu Shoji develops special service station equipment incorporating new technologies from Japan and overseas.

Leading the industry in freight container/transport vehicle innovations

Develops trailers and vehicles for specific freight needs

We have been reaching experiences in designing and developing trailers. Examples include a trailer with an ultra-low floor developed for our 31-foot large-capacity container for rail transport, a multipurpose trailer for carrying ultra-heavy freight, and an air cushion frame trailer for carrying precision equipment. Transporting special freight is another area we excel at. We have developed transport trailers and special equipment to help transport special freight such as Shinkansen train parts and wind turbine blades.

Japan’s leading vehicle service station network

Nittsu Shoji has a nationwide network of own and partner service stations that can support any type of vehicle or manufacturer. These service stations are authorized by domestic and foreign manufacturers. Trucks, other vehicles, and parts made by various manufacturers are available for sale. The network is designed to improve client convenience through features such as an online vehicle management support system enabling management of service histories and schedules.
Tapping into the Asian leasing market
With a large number of manufacturers flocking to Thailand from around the world, we have responded by establishing the Leasing Division’s first overseas subsidiary, Nittsu Shoji Leasing (Thailand). The company provides services for Japanese logistics companies such as vehicle and logistics equipment leases, cross-border leases for Thailand and neighboring countries, and installment sales.

Insurance for corporate business risks
Nittsu Shoji also provides insurance services, and is one of the major agencies in the industry. Our nationwide network of more than 75 offices can design made-to-order policies to provide insurance solutions tailored to client needs. Our lineup of products for companies includes policies for disasters and accidents, along with risk analysis-driven insurance products such as our Vehicle Accident Reduction Program and Industry-Specific Risk Solution Map. Our insurance professionals consult thoroughly with clients to propose products designed to help ensure risk management and security continuing into the future. We also offer an extensive range of products for individuals in both the life and nonlife insurance categories.

Energy supplier of industrial and home use
Nittsu Shoji works to ensure a stable supply of energy for logistics, industrial, and home use. Our role as a multifaceted trading company makes us one of only a handful of companies that have the ability of providing the functions of both a petroleum trader and supplier. We also have more than 50 years of experience in LP (liquefied petroleum) gas, supplying it under our Nittsu Propane brand for widespread industrial and automotive use, and for use in homes throughout Japan.

A stable supply of industrial energy
Our nationwide sales activities include direct sales of industrial fuel and retail sales to users as a wholesaler. In 2009, we started operating the bunker tanker Aiko Maru in the bays around Tokyo and Yokohama, which have the highest demand for shipping fuel in Japan. The tanker supplies fuel to meet the needs of clients operating both coastal and ocean-going vessels.

Nittsu Propane branded LP gas
LP gas is a clean energy source that we have been selling since the debut of our Nittsu Propane brand in 1962. We have 41 filling stations and about 850 sales outlets throughout Japan. We deliver LP gas for industrial use directly to large clients. We are also a supplier of LP gas for home use to about 20,000 homes throughout Japan. We promote an LP gas-fueled high efficiency water heater (Eco-Fuz) and a generator/water heater system (Eco-Farm), while working to grow sales of photovoltaic generator/indoor water heater systems.

Importance of reducing environmental impact
Nittsu Shoji is promoting to switch from diesel engine vehicles to LP gas vehicles. We are also encouraging the use of LP gas as a funeral fuel to reduce emissions caused by warehousing work. In response to diesel emissions regulations, we started selling a special high-grade aqueous urea solution called AdBlue in 2004. The product is used in vehicles with urea SCR (selective catalytic reduction) systems. Our role as an energy supplier makes us keenly aware of the importance of selling environmentally friendly products. We sell photovoltaic generation systems for industrial use, and create microsolar system packages (with generation capacities of under 50 kW) for use throughout Japan. Our own facilities are also increasingly being equipped with photovoltaic generation systems.
Leaping Across Boundaries Through Respect for People, Communities, and the Planet

Since respect for the environment is a top priority for Nittsu Shoji’s business activities, we are eager to assist the environmental preservation efforts of our clients and communities by providing safe and environmentally friendly products and services. We are committed to practicing good corporate citizenship by serving as a trusted cornerstone of the local communities we do business in. We aim to achieve this goal through conscientious application of compliance activities and by encouraging all our domestic and overseas employees to be active participants in a variety of CSR programs whenever possible. Nittsu Shoji’s role as a global business entity also makes us keenly aware of the importance of diversity. By harnessing a broad range of different strengths from different individuals, we aim to become a more dynamic organization respecting the diversity of all employees regardless of nationality, gender, or age.

Activities Overseas

Employees presenting a donation to an experimental elementary school in China’s Wuhan Economic & Technological Development Zone. The presentation ceremony was one of several events held to mark the company’s 10th anniversary. Nittsu Shoji (Wuhan)

Activities in JAPAN

Local high school students touring the Tokyo Factory receive a hands-on learning experience not possible within school walls. Tokyo Factory.

Participating in a project to convey the devastation of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake to future generations. The project aims to help save lives by planting cherry trees to mark the extent of the tsunami’s inland encroachment during the disasters.

Employees featuring in a television school on the national Children’s Day. By donating school supplies and other necessities to schools in Japan, the company is helping improve educational opportunities and quality for local children. Nittsu Shoji (Tokyo)

The Fukuoka Factory’s photovoltaic generation system is one of several similar systems being installed at Nittsu Shoji facilities.

History

1964
- Nittsu Shoji established

1978
- Branch office opens in New York
- Corporate logo created

1981
- Nittsu Shoji subsidiary established in USA as the first overseas subsidiary

1991
- Dalian Nittsu Container Manufacturing established

1995
- Nittsu Shoji U.S.A. established in March

1996
- Nittsu Shoji (Thailand) established

1998
- Nittsu Shoji Career Staff established (now ALOZ Business Support)

1999
- Corporate philosophy created. ALOZ marketing symbol announced

2001
- Nittsu Shoji Environmental Charter created

2003
- Headquarters moves to Hamamatsu Parkside Place building in Tokyo, Tokyo

2004
- Nittsu Shoji (Makassar) established

2005
- Nittsu Shoji (Shanghai) established

2007
- Logistics Support Division receives ISO 14001 certification

2008
- Successful completion of joint Japan-China IC Tag demonstration testing project

2010
- Nittsu Shoji became first logistics provider to adopt security system complying with Critical TRA (CTRA) program led by US government

2011
- Nittsu Shoji’s transport medal wins receive formal recognition with award from Japan’s Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism for excellence in transport-related environmental preservation

2012
- Start of photoelastic generation project
- New headquarters building completed in the Kita area of Toho’s Minato ward

2013
- Nittsu Shoji India established
- Ceremony held to mark 50th year of Nittsu Prepara Brand

2014
- ALOZ (Thailand) established
- Nittsu Shoji becomes wholly owned subsidiary of Nippon Express through stock transfer

2015
- Nittsu Shoji India established

Nittsu Shoji’s ‘ALOZ’ marketing logo was created by inserting the letters I and O (the first two letters of the word ‘logistics’) between the letters A and Z (representing the full spectrum of business activities). The logo symbolizes Nittsu Shoji’s core of logistics support operations surrounded by a complete range of supplementary products and services.