Management tools for purchasing and inventory management

Because you need to be an expert to manage inventory
“Our main aim was improving our service. With Slim4 we have achieved this without increasing our stock levels.”

**Nefit Buderus**  
Dick van Teeffelen is Manager Parts at Nefit, part of the German Bosch Buderus group. Achieving better service is essential for the market leader in energy efficient boilers. To optimally manage the spare-parts, the Baan system was linked with Slim4. This has given greater insight in the usage of, and the demand on components.
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“Slim4 increased our service level to 98%.”

Laboratoria Flandria

André Van Damme is financial and administrative director of Laboratoria Flandria. Labo Flandria is a subsidiary of OPG Nederland, and one of the biggest distributors of pharmaceutical products in Belgium. The immediate inventory reduction was 12%, while the service level increased. For fast movers the service level is now at 99.7%, and if you take into account the service levels of their suppliers as well their overall performance still equals 98%.

“Slim4 made it possible to take the right decisions.”

Cealco

Central de Compras CEALCO is the largest purchase organization in Spain in the area of sanitary equipment, heating and air-conditioning. Mrs. Sylvia Camps, managing director of CEALCO: “Our sales has increased with 40%, just as the number of order lines. Slim4 made it possible to take the right decisions.”
Better returns through better inventory control

Increased returns on your capital employed in inventory. That is exactly what you get when you choose solutions from Slimstock.

For over 15 years, Slimstock has been synonymous with better demand forecasting, effective inventory management, clearer inventory analysis, and continuous improvements of inventory reliability. Over 250 companies in Europe – across a wide range of industries, covering large, as well as medium and small enterprises – use our solutions.

Our philosophy is based on the fact that purchase planning and inventory management is a specialist area. That adding specialized software to your existing business software offers significant advantage, and that the best logistic solutions are thought through and implemented by people with many years of practical experience in supply chain management.

Good inventory management depends on reliable data. Best practice therefore dictates that you analyse inventories regularly and ensure your forecast methodology, inventory planning, and ordering procedures are up to the minute. Your inventory levels, for example, may be higher than necessary. By implementing a number of simple measures, we believe you will improve your service levels with significantly lower inventory levels.

Slimstock products provide valuable insight into your inventory, and deliver better and efficient inventory planning, increased service levels, and lower inventory levels. You’ll also achieve higher margins and faster turnaround times. Slimstock – we guarantee – will increase your productivity and deliver a higher return on investment.
Auto Distribution Nederland delivers 30,000 different automotive parts to its distributors. Cindy Hendriks is responsible for the inventory and inventory levels: “We have reduced our inventory by a million euro, and improved deliveries to our distributors”.

“Our turnaround is much faster, availability has increased and we work more efficiently.”
Inventory management requires know-how
Specialists in practice

Many years of practical logistical experience has gone into the development of Slimstock products. Our implementation and support people all have extensive experience in supply chain management. As a result, you get the sophisticated software products you need and a highly practical solution.

To achieve process optimisation, a precise analysis of your software needs to be executed. The first step is an in-depth preliminary analysis to map out the potential for improvement, which is used to establish an implementation plan and set clear quantifiable objectives. In response, we offer a fixed budget with guaranteed results – covering the entire implementation phase – to help deliver improvements.

Our consultants are specialists across a diversity of areas. Saying that, we focus on a select number of sectors including automotive, spare parts, pharmaceutical, steel, technology whole trade, and retail. This is where we have gained the most experience, and represent the industries where we have the most clients.

Our systems can be interfaced with all leading ERP business systems, and also with all user developed systems. The implementation partners we work with include SAP, Oracle, Baan, Exact, and Unit4.
Slim4
Forecasting and inventory management

Slimstock is the European market leader in specialist software for forecasting, demand planning, inventory control, and purchase support. User feedback, experience and requests - over 15 years - have resulted in what is today ranked as the most user-friendly, complete inventory management solution.

**Slim4 optimises inventory**

Slim4 is the complete inventory planning solution. It can help you reduce your inventory levels and at the same time, improve your service levels. Typically, you will achieve 25-30% reduction in inventory levels.

Simulations will help you work out how a particular level of service will affect the inventory. You can also adapt the solution to meet the specific needs of your organisation by adding different extension modules.

**Current parameters**

Slim4 continually analyses the sales of all items and determines the boundaries in which the demand of each item fluctuates. Where required, the parameters are automatically set for each item. Using clear ‘exception reports’, you will be able to quickly see which items need attention and input. Consequently, you will be able to make more efficient and better purchase planning decisions.

**The ideal add-on for ERP software**

Slim4 was developed to enhance your existing ERP environment. The implementation time is very short – delivering visible first results within months.
On the basis of the sales forecast, the required service levels, the minimum order quantities, and the lead time per item (or group of items), Slim4 calculates safety stock levels, ‘order up to’ levels and produces a 12-month purchase plan. This will simplify your order process and enable you to give your suppliers a reliable purchase forecast.

**Demand forecasting**
Establishing the distribution pattern plays an important role in demand forecasting. Slim4 works out the best ordering method based on the distribution pattern. As this is an automatic process, it will free you to focus on exceptions and items that require special attention.

**Faster turnaround time**
Your orders will always be based on current and correct parameters. Therefore, you won’t need to spend time ‘fire fighting’. You will have access to accurate information. This will enable your organisation to be more efficient, and importantly, more effective. You will be able to increase your inventory availability and reduce inventory levels at the same time.

**Multi level planning**
Slim4 is not limited to the management of a single location. It is the ideal forecasting and inventory management solution for organisations with multiple planning departments and / or many locations.
“We chose Slim4 as the European standard for Forecasting and Inventory Management.”

Tree of Life

Richard Hilton is the Buying and Marketing Manager for Tree of Life Ltd., the largest distributor of natural foodstuffs in the UK, and 100% subsidiary of Wessanen. Using Slim4 has resulted in higher service levels, and allowed the buyers to focus on strategic purchases and promotions.

“Within four months, we reduced our inventory by 30%.”

Teak & Garden

Nick Wesselman is the owner of Teak & Garden, one of the largest suppliers of garden furniture in Europe. Good planning of the stock is crucial, because much of our seasonal range is sourced in Asia, and still the customer expects that everything is in stock. “Beforehand, an order from one large supplier would keep me busy for a day and a half. Now, I can manage the orders of all my suppliers in half a day.”
The modules

Slimstock software is used by buyers, planners and their managers. High service levels, reduced inventory, and increased efficiency. That is exactly what you get when you use Slimstock software.

Implementation is fast. There is very little demand on the IT department. The modular architecture means that only essential data is used, making the results clear and easy for users to understand.

Slimstock offers a number of additional modules in combination with Slim4 to meet specific requirements. These solutions are based on practical experience. Modules are available for inventory analysis, purchasing optimisation, action planning, promotions, and insight in the inventory within the supply chain.
Slimstock GV (Global Visibility)
If inventory is distributed across many warehouses and countries, it is not easy to achieve a consistent overview. Global Visibility gives you a view of your total inventory and inventory per location - effortlessly. It gives you insight into your current inventory and performance of the entire logistics chain. This will allow you to take steps to maximise and make better use of your more valuable inventory.

Use inventory efficiently
Global Visibility gives you a clear and unambiguous view of all your inventories and performance of the inventory throughout the whole chain. Problem areas are immediately visible: where you have too much inventory or a risk of shortage. So, what are the alternatives? By using Global Visibility, you can simply reallocate your inventory and use it where it will achieve optimum performance.

Slimstock ABC Inventory Scan
Slimstock ABC allows you to see your complete inventory in a moment. Where your critical stock-outs are and where inventory levels are too high. It allows you to see, at a glance, how adequate your logistics parameters are and where you need to take action.

ABC tailored
ABC classification of the inventory enables you to get fast insight into a complex situation. An ABC classification can be made for every situation: so for example a new ABC classification can be created for a buyer or a financial director. An ABC classification can also vary per product group.

Stock assessment
Slimstock ABC provides an overview of the potential for inventory reduction, and where the greatest risk of stock-outs are. Clear distinction is made between current and outdated surpluses. Furthermore, you can use it to evaluate different product groups. Slimstock ABC can therefore make a valuable contribution to your product range management.

Slimstock CCP (Cycle Count Pro)
Stock reliability is crucial for all traders and manufacturers. Customer service depends on it. It is therefore vital that you have a reliable picture of your inventory situation. Yet, the annual inventory count can deliver surprises.

Inventory and customer service
In many businesses, stocktaking shows that inventory reliability leaves a lot to be desired, in spite it being an important quality measure. Wouldn’t you like to be absolutely sure you can deliver on your promises when your best customer calls?

End of year count
Cycle Count Pro is a user-friendly programme. It allows you to continually improve your inventory reliability using small daily samples. You can set the accuracy levels needed to meet your requirements.

Research from Ernst & Young and KPMG shows Cycle Count Pro ends the need for the end of year stock taking.
Slimstock OG (order generator)

Slim4 generates a purchase order advice - allowing you to achieve optimum availability with the minimum inventory. It allows you input data such as purchase conditions, transport charges, and minimum order quantities – to provide a richer and more meaningful output. The result will be higher purchase discounts, lower transport charges, and fewer consignments - while keeping your inventory at optimum levels.

Slimstock OG offers significant advantages. It enables you to combine orders to make up a full container or complete pallet. Furthermore, during production planning, the generator can help you determine the optimum production batches.

Slimstock Promo (promotion module)

If you use promotions, we recommend that you use Slim4 in combination with Slimstock Promo. Promotional activities have a considerable impact on the sale of an item, however it may also affect the sale of related items. The promotion module brings together past experience with the expectations of sales and marketing. This provides better demand forecasting. It also means, by involving sales and marketing, all aspects of the promotion can be properly planned and produced in advance.
“Our inventory management is easier, faster and better.”

Klöckner & Co
Bart Ingen-Housz is director at ODS, one of the largest multi-metal distributors in the Netherlands, part of the worldwide Klöckner group. To improve customer service levels, Slim4 was linked to their SAP system. “We have much more control of our stock and as a result can respond much more quickly to market developments.”
Major references

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Auto Distribution
Doosan
Doyen-Auto
Kühne
Lasaulce
Royal Nooteboom
Van der Peijl Groep
Weweler-Colaert

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Ankor Mennema
Batifer
BigMat Ochoa
Faille
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Consumer products
B&C International
Highlite International
Schwarzkopf
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Draka
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Pharmaceuticals
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Tornier

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Wholesale
AVT Logistic
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Bührmann-Ubbens
Corporate Express
Econosto
Gallagher Europe
Kannegieter
Mid Ocean
Moonen Packaging
Proost & Brandt
Quantore Europe
Tieman Trading
A well balanced stock will satisfy your customer requirements, eliminate shortages and excesses, free capital, space and minimize risk. Slim4 will balance your stocks.