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# SPRING GDS AND PARENT COMPANY POSTNL PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS THE WHOLE LOGISTICS SECTOR WITH REUSABLE PALLET BOXES

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**In the first international collaboration of its kind, introducing zero-waste delivery solutions helps all Spring GDS and PostNL customers and partners take environmental action.**

**H**ow Spring GDS and PostNL are reducing waste and helping the whole logistics sector move towards more sustainable operations.

In this issue of Cross-Border Magazine we examine how the Spring GDS team of cross-border e-commerce logistics experts, who were in the lead for this innovative project for both Spring GDS and PostNL, used their international network to drive long-term sustainability action.

## Why are Spring GDS concerned about sustainability?

With their parent company PostNL receiving multiple awards for leadership in climate action (including three years running on the CDP A-list for climate change) it's no surprise that Spring GDS are making sustainability a top priority.

Since 2021, by working with Spring GDS, customers have automatically offset all their cross border emissions through Gold Standard Certified climate action projects at no additional cost. Spring GDS are now piloting a project to considerably reduce CO2 emissions from their European road network by replacing fossil fuels with the biofuel HV0100.

## What is the orange pallet box?

Spring GDS and PostNL's orange pallet box is a strong, foldable storage unit made of 100% recyclable materials. Each unit has an average lifespan of between 7-10 years, and transports products more safely and ergonomically than single use traditional packaging. Once retired from circulation, every pallet box is returned to the supplier, making this product completely circular.

The orange pallet boxes are easily stacked so that up to 66 full boxes can be loaded into one truck. This allows the maximum amount of volume to be used inside trucks, as well as in storage areas during pre-transport loading and in their destination exchange offices.

The orange pallet boxes are simple for one person

to unfold and assemble in about 30 seconds with no additional parts, nails or screws needed. The easy-sleeve flap design provides unrestricted access for efficient loading and unloading of parcels. Each orange pallet box also has an incorporated locking system and is always tracked to ensure items are not tampered with or stolen along the way.

## How is this more sustainable than carton or wood packaging?

The orange pallet boxes have a reduced impact on the environment compared to carton or wood packaging after only seven delivery cycles. Considering they can be used for up to 10 years, this adds up to a much lower environmental impact over their total time in circulation.

Swapping carton or wood boxes for reusable pallet boxes also helps to reduce emissions. The orange pallet boxes' higher internal fill rate results in transporting less air, and the easy stacking design means more can fill every truck (66 pallet boxes per truck compared to 33 similar size carton or wooden boxes). This improves load capacity and leads to fewer trucks on the road.



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### The first international collaboration of its kind

With a reliable international network already in place, Spring GDS are the first organisation to use reusable pallet boxes on this scale with both postal and commercial partners. Orange pallet boxes must be kept in circulation to maximise their use, so this environmental initiative depends on cross-border collaboration.

Cooperation between Benelux, France, Spain, Italy, Germany and the Czech Republic has allowed the introduction of pallet boxes into European delivery services. With this ambitious initiative, we have paved the way for other logistics services to swap traditional packaging for more sustainable alternatives.

### The bigger picture: moving from a linear economy to a circular economy

Sustainability in the logistics sector requires an innovative approach and an appreciation that planetary resources are finite. The orange pallet boxes are a perfect example of moving away from a linear economy where single-use materials go to waste and towards a circular economy where materials are constantly recycled and kept in use.

Together with partners Spring GDS and PostNL are leading the way for the whole logistics sector to reduce their environmental impact. Addressing global warming is a complex challenge that requires creativity, collaboration and international cooperation. These are all part of everyday business at Spring GDS and PostNL, who pride themselves on finding solutions that take complications away from their customers. ••



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