Command Alkon®

Apex

Automate Your Aggregate or Asphalt Operations.

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Current State and Vision for the Future

The pandemic impacted the bulk material industries in many areas of the business, and while most producers are reporting sales increases over previous years, one area has not recovered as expected. Labor shortages at the office and skilled labor at the plants has become one of the top concerns of the industry, equal in importance to supply chain issues.

If you attend any industry conference or pick up any industry magazine, chances are there will be a discussion about the challenges of finding and keeping employees in all areas of the company. This was a roundtable session at our own ELEVATE Customer Conference, and the room was full.

Many companies are turning to technology to help bridge the gap.

At Command Alkon, we're also seeing this trend take root. As a leading provider of software solutions for the heavy building materials industry, we also lead the way in automation solutions for plant operations.

Overcoming Dispatch Challenges

Meet the rising demands of the modern customer by linking processes and data together. One common system allows employees to manage the business from one unified data solution that delivers insights, simplifies dispatch, and promotes a positive brand image.

Point-of-Sale

How: Simplify your order taker's job by reducing the volume of calls and ensuring they are having more high-value conversations with customers.

Opportunities:

- ERP Integration allows you to maintain your products lists and sales orders in your ERP and then share that information with Apex to use throughout the system, always maintaining a single source of truth.

- Integrated Trucking (*formerly known as RuckIt*) is a trucking solution to manage trucking for both owned fleet and third-party hauling on a single platform. The system meets the needs of asphalt paving projects, aggregate and cement suppliers, and trucking companies. Integrated Trucking integrates with Apex Dispatch to super-charge your dispatch operations.

- Apex Dispatch assigns vehicles to dispatches to manage a vehicle's activity for the day or for multiple days. As conditions change during the day, assignments can change. A carrier or vehicle assignment may be changed right up until the time the load is loaded or ticketed. Apex Dispatch in conjunction with Integrated Trucking delivers powerful tools to help your dispatchers accurately and quickly dispatch vehicles.

- Ticket Portal helps eliminate tedious, manual tasks like matching paper with paper, searching for lost tickets, and waiting on paper tickets to return to the office. Use a simple connector to pass tickets from your Apex systems to the Ticket Portal, then share your digital ticket data with your customers for real-time access from our browser-based portal or mobile app.

- Scalewatcher Cloud provides customers with visual, accurate, and actionable data metrics used to improve business management and customer relationships. With the Scalewatcher platform, considerably more data can be extrapolated upon and viewed from wherever the user has an Internet connection. Strategically placed cameras and data received through the Command Alkon Apex system and scale provide robust analytics and tracking. This refined data allows our customers to take advantage of plant metrics that, until now, were unavailable or required excessive time to gather and process by hand.

Overcoming Plant Labor Shortages with Apex Automation

There's a historically high volume of demand for materials in the midst of a crippling labor shortage. The good news? Automation technologies are available to speed up the check-in, loadout, and ticketing process so that you can do more with less.

Check-in

How: Streamline the check-in process using assigned Dispatches, so drivers spend less time on the radio or in the scalehouse finding out what they are hauling and where to go.

Opportunities:

- Driver Kiosks to facilitate driver self-service when hauling for multiple customers or dispatches.

- Express RFID readers and SmartPass RFID readers, like the ones you see on an interstate tollway, facilitate faster check-in of vehicles who already have assignments.

- License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology provides the ability to recognize trucks automatically and check them in to the Apex system.

Loading

How: Provide better visibility into what vehicles are in plant, what product to load, and how much to load in a safe manner.

Opportunities (Aggregate):

- Apex Wireless Loader is an in-cab loader app that runs on a ruggedized Windows, iOS, or Android tablet mounted in the cab of the loader. Wireless Loader provides the operator with a list of vehicles checked into the plant, what product to load, and how much to load.

Opportunities (Asphalt):

- Vehicles In Plant is the scalehouse version of the Wireless Loader. It displays the same information and allows the user to populate the ticketing/loadout screen with a single click.

- Silo Safety System provides added security so that a truck is positioned properly under the correct silo.

Ticketing

How: Adding automation that provides security and safety to the process allows quicker turnaround while lowering staffing overhead.

Opportunities:

- Scalewatcher cameras capture an image of the truck on the scale and superimpose ticketing information from the Apex system (truck number, license plate information, driver, and product information) all to provide image verification of the load leaving the site.

- Theft Deterrent is constantly monitoring the scale, independent of the ticketing system. Alerts are triggered with any anomalies, such as a potential load going out without a ticket record created.

- Ticket Printer Enclosure has proven to reduce in-plant time by 25% or more by keeping drivers in their trucks and out of the scalehouse. The risk of injury is reduced or eliminated when drivers don't have to climb in and out of their trucks to get a printed ticket.

Aligning Business and Needs to Drive Success with Apex

When we can focus on big picture issues, we can accomplish much more. Removing mundane, time-consuming tasks is how we can start.

Partnering with you to understand what works for your operation.
With advanced scale ticketing software and simple automation, we can save you valuable time, reduce waste, ensure quality customer service, and provide added safety to employees and drivers. It's time to find out more so you can run your plant on autopilot with Apex.
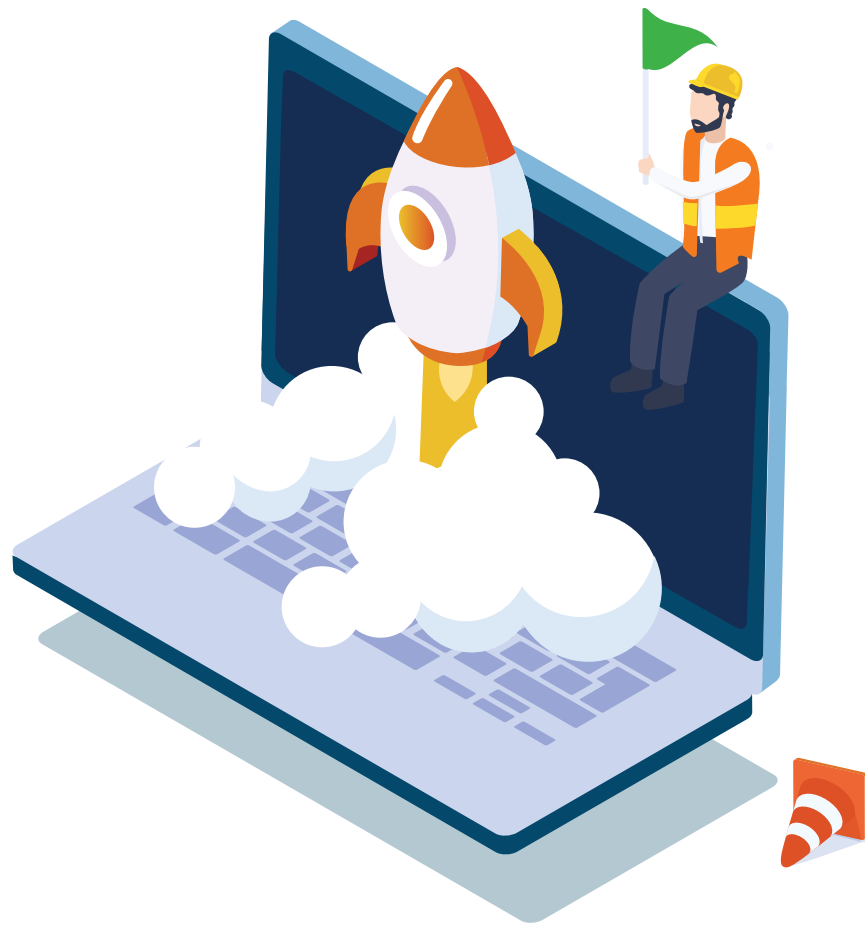
Streamlining Accounting Processes and Solutions.
With master data integration capabilities in place, you can easily maintain customers in your ERP system – QuickBooks ™, Viewpoint ™, SAP ™, Sage ™, and more – and share that data with dispatch to automate credit, invoicing, billing, and accounts receivables. Today, we take priced tickets and export those to an ERP system.

Bringing Together People and Technology.
Our goal is to develop solutions that help you take control of the challenges facing your operation and empower your team to drive operational and financial performance to new levels.

As an extension of your team, we're committed to bringing together industry experts with automating technology to enrich your operations.

Learn More
Lets talk now to discover
what your dispatch future
can look like.

Command Alkon is a unified, global company committed to
partnering with the community that we serve.