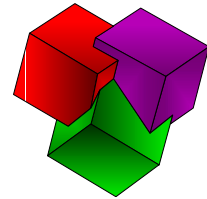


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## **News Release**

### ***For Immediate Release***

### **TOPS® ENGINEERING AND OPTILOGISTICS TEAM UP TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT PACKAGING AND UNIT LOAD DATA**

**CHICAGO**, Illinois, November 7, 2004 – TOPS® Engineering Corporation, a leader in distribution and packaging software, and OptiLogistics, Inc., a marketer of innovative unit load and transport packaging solutions, today announced at PACK EXPO 2004 a new arrangement centered on providing shippers with new insight into cargo and unit load design and cube optimization. The relationship will involve business process sharing, data transfers and expertise exchanges.

TOPS offers a series of sophisticated software applications that help companies optimize unit and cargo load configurations. The company, based in Richardson, Texas, will incorporate the OptiLedge System into its TOPS Pro and MaxLoad Pro applications, both of which are the leading solutions in the industry.

The OptiLedge System from OptiLogistics includes the OptiLedge, a unique “L”-shaped unit load platform alternative, machines for manufacturing the OptiLedge; machines for assembling unit loads and the technology for the efficient handling, transport and storage of unitized product.

“TOPS Engineering is clearly at the forefront of unit load and container layout, and that is where OptiLogistics wants to be. This is an exciting development for our company, and one that will lead the expansion of the OptiLedge concept,” said Rex Lowe, President and CEO of OptiLogistics.

“The OptiLogistics offering is an important innovation in the field of transport packaging and one that our clients need to be aware of. We look forward to working with professionals at OptiLogistics to provide added value to the industry,” said Bill Rehling, President and Founder of TOPS Engineering.

The integrated system will have its debut during PACK EXPO International 2004. TOPS Engineering Corporation (Booth # N-3128) will demonstrate its latest TOPS Pro and MaxLoad Pro software while show attendees will be able to see the OptiLedge System in action at Booth# E-9124.

**About TOPS® Engineering Corporation**

TOPS® Engineering Corporation, incorporated in 1990, is the world leader in the development of innovative software for the distribution and packaging professionals. Its flagship products, "TOPS®Pro" - Package Design and Palletization software and "MaxLoad®Pro" - Cargo Load Planning and Optimization software, has over 8000 installed base worldwide and serves big and small corporations across wide industries. TOPS® also offers the first web-based package design software, TOPSePAC®, allowing package engineers to perform design and analysis anytime, anywhere, on any platform using any internet browser.

**About OptiLogistics, Inc.**

OptiLogistics, Inc. is a marketer of an innovative unit load shipping system applicable in a variety of industries including furniture, home improvement, consumer and business electronics, appliances and a wide range of other consumer and industrial product markets. The OptiLogistics solution features the OptiLedge system comprised of unit load devices and systems for efficient unitization that facilitates transport and storage to significantly reduce cost and waste throughout the supply chain. OptiLogistics, Inc., headquartered in Irving, Texas, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Inter IKEA Holding Systems B.V., The Netherlands, which is the mother company of Inter IKEA Systems B.V. – the owner and franchisor of the IKEA concept worldwide. Additional information is available at [www.optilogistics.com](http://www.optilogistics.com)

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