

Center for Engineering Logistics and Distribution (CELDi)

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Networking Merchandise Logistics

Research at the Center for Engineering Logistics and Distribution (CELDi) has enabled Wal-Mart to identify opportunities to streamline some of the company's processes. Center researchers collected data and conducted an in-depth analysis in areas the company could not otherwise accomplish. The work provided an opportunity to rethink how it uses some of the job activities and personnel hours in its stores and to enhance store productivity. Last year, the center helped the company do a logistics analysis that caused the network designers to rethink how the logistics network (all the systems



related to moving merchandise from vendor/supplier to the store) will be organized in the future. Currently, center researchers are working on a project that will change how the company maintains inventory accuracy. In a store that has such a large flow of freight it is critical to maintain accuracy of inventory records to avoid over- or under-inventorying items in the store. Center efforts have led also to the publication of research papers on these subjects. Last year, the network analysis was published in the literature, and the company anticipates that this year's inventory analysis will lead to another paper. For more information, contact Dr. Manuel Rossetti, 479.575.6756, rossetti@uark.edu, or Dr. Russell D. Meller, 479.575.6196, rmeller@uark.edu.

