



ALMADS Enterprise System

Hulling, Shelling Processing & Packing

ALMADS

(A)gricultural (L)ogistics (M)anagement and (D)istribution
(S)ystem
(H)ulling, (S)helling, (P)rocessing & (P)acking

Developed by



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Introduction

ALMADS Ent - Agricultural Logistics, Management And Distribution System - Enterprise

Is custom software that manages all aspects of the Hulling, Shelling, Processing & Packing process, from grower receivables from the field through to dispatch of marketed goods. Product is tracked from delivery, through hulling, shelling, processing, bagging and finally to delivery to the buyer. Reduction of double handling of information and miscalculation is achieved by use of barcoding, scale interfaces and both fixed and mobile onsite terminals. Information is available to management in real time with data being captured whilst the process is performed.

The major benefits that ALMADS provides that many other software solutions lack, is the ability to capture the movements and processes live, instead of information being entered after the event. The traditional method of recording data, does NOT provide timely information to the plant's management team. By having information captured live, the plant's management team have critical information at their fingertips to make real time cost saving decisions at a time when they are most effective.



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Modules include:

1. ALMADS Core System
2. Grower Scheduling
3. Truck Scales
4. Stockpile Management and Tank Management
5. Empty Bin Tracking
6. Runs and Bins Management
7. Warehousing
8. Marketing
9. Grading & Picking
10. Quality Assurance
11. Finished Goods & Shipping
12. By-Product (Commodity) Management (Hash, Shell and Hull)
13. Consumable Inventory
14. Grower Accounts
15. Management Reporting
16. Grower Web Portal



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ALMADS suits the scale of your business.

- The ALMADS software modules can be installed individually or used in any combination to suit your needs - eg. Huller/Sheller (HS) - Huller/Sheller/Handler (Ent) - Handler/Processor (PP) only.
- Each module covers a specific area of the Hulling, Shelling & Handling process and can work in conjunction with existing systems to provide a complete solution.
- The ALMADS modules can also be customized to suit specific needs. ALMADS is compatible with most MS Windows environments (9x, NT, 2000, XP, Vista, 2003 Server & 2008 Server).
- The system is easy to use and requires minimal training to operate.
- ALMADS is a multi-user program that can be shared amongst multiple users and locations. Although written for a Windows environment, outputs to the system can be presented for the web and accessed using a browser. This will enable access to reports anywhere!

Testimonials



Central California Almond Growers Association (CCAGA)

The business partnership established by Regional IT with customers is best summed up in the following testimonial.

These comments follow the completion of the second season of ALMADS with Central Californian Almond Growers Association (CCAGA), Kerman CA (2012 will be CCAGA's 6th season with ALMADS).

"With the tremendous volume and record delivery levels associated with this season's crop we would not have been able to efficiently receive the production from our members without the ALMADS solution. We have broken our daily receiving record by 30% and this is due in large part to the ALMADS software system which has given us improved efficiencies at the truck scale. Previously inbound Trucks would take between 5-10 minutes to process once they reached the weighbridge window. We are now averaging 3 minutes per truck! The fully integrated ALMADS software system not only compliments our receiving capabilities but has also substantially increased efficiencies in all aspects of our operations; stockpile, pre-cleaner, shelling and dispatch. We are also able to provide to the minute information to our Growers. That is unheard of in this industry and that translates into fantastic service to our members. Service, that's what we're all about!"

Mike Kelley - President and CEO of CCAGA.

Cortina Hulling & Shelling



"After seeing demonstrations of both ALMADS and competing software programs, we were impressed with the capabilities and ease of ALMADS. We purchased ALMADS for the 2011 season.

We were amazed by how user friendly the program was to use and the capabilities it had to track the product of each grower from the field all the way to the processor. We were also impressed with Regional IT's ability to adapt ALMADS to our specific business practices, and the support they provided.

Based on our past season using ALMADS, our company would not hesitate to recommend ALMADS software!"

Gary Pronsolino - General Manager of Cortina Hulling & Shelling, LLC



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Cortez Growers Association

"It is my pleasure to provide the following comments regarding services provided CGA by Regional IT and its staff, led by Justin Iovino.

Prior to selecting Regional IT's almond sheller receiving and shipping software I reviewed several programs available, but found Regional's program to be the most advanced. I also considered them to be the most stable of the several providers available, being well established in serving not only the California almond industry, but in the almond and other industries in Australia as well.

We incorporated ALMADS into our operations prior to the 2011 harvest. I found Regional IT to be most cooperative, listening to discover our needs and very willing to address modifications to their program to accommodate us. After harvest actually started I and my staff suffered a learning curve, as would be expected, but found that we could rely on Justin and his staff to respond to questions and solve problems in a very timely manner.

I consider our first year with ALMADS to have been a success. We have learned that we can have confidence in the program and the database behind it. We look forward to working with Regional IT to make the program even more responsive to our needs, and to our growers needs, in future years.

For those considering updating their grower receiving, shipping, and accounting functions I suggest that you would be well served to consider Regional IT."

Joe Kollmeyer - Association Manager of Cortez Growers Association



T & P Farms

I have been the Assistant Manager for T & P Farms Hulling & Shelling for 5 years, and we have just successfully completed our first season using ALMADS as our software system. ALMADS is helping us track product with speed and efficiency. We are able to eliminate costly errors, increase our productivity, manage commodities, and provide our growers with up to date information instantly.

Regional IT has been phenomenal to work with in developing a customized version of the ALMADS software. From the very beginning we were promised a system that would be customized to fit our unique needs as a Hulling & Shelling Facility, and Regional IT delivered us a system that met and exceeded our expectations.

Lastly, we are very pleased with the Customer Service side of Regional IT. With it being our first season using the ALMADS software, we were quick to call with minor questions, concerns, and requests. Regional IT has been outstanding in taking care of our needs, and all issues were dealt with by Regional IT in a very timely manner, in some cases the middle of the night. Regional IT is dedicated to their clients at any hour.

T & P Farms Hulling & Shelling is looking forward to working with Regional IT for many years to come. We truly believe that working with Regional IT and their ALMADS software would be an asset to any Hulling & Shelling Facility.

Sarah Reynolds - Assistant Manager, T & P Farms Hulling & Shelling



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4 Corners Hulling & Shelling

After completing our first season using ALMADS I've had time to reflect on our experience. The software and service are outstanding! As you are aware, we had very limited time to implement the system. In late June we found ourselves in an awkward position in which we couldn't use our previous software. From the first phone call I knew that we were dealing with professionals that provide a phenomenal product. Justin put me at ease, not only could custom software be developed, but functional by our estimated August 15th start date.

As promised, by mid August our custom version was installed and functional. We knew with our limited time frame we were going to have to jump in with little testing time. We began receiving product the day after our final version was installed. With any custom software, hiccups are bound to occur. During the first month of harvest I called at least 50 times, in the rare event that Justin didn't answer, I had a call back within a few minutes and a solution. I never worried the software would slow production. I felt as though we were your only clients, the service was superb!

ALMADS provided solutions to issues I didn't know we had. It provides unparalleled tracking from the point of receiving field run to the shipment of finished product and commodities. At any time I am able to track product to the specific stockpile, trailer, tank, bin or warehouse location. Immediately after completing a run ALMADS provides several statistics on the run time, bin counts, weights and turnout. Every run can be instantly analyzed to insure our customers are being provided the highest possible return. I'm particularly impressed with the validation processes that must occur before any finished product is shipped to processing. Almonds cannot leave our facility without proper verification and paperwork, eliminating any shipment errors.

Thank you for providing such a great service and an excellent product. I'm grateful for ALMADS, it's a must have product for our industry. After looking back I cannot believe how we managed without it.

Thank you.

Kevin Amator



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ALMADS and Technology

The point of difference with ALMADS and most other process management systems is the way data is captured at ground level.

Using industrial fixed (or solid state netbooks) and mobile terminals that withstand the moisture and dust of a production environment, it allows all movements of product to be tracked through the plant. At any time, the product is easily locatable using the ALMADS program. Information is entered at pivotal points throughout the plant. This provides “live” information within the system for staff to access and react to.

Connection can be made to existing electronic scales and the weight information is broadcast over any internal network allowing ALMADS to collect the information and place it into relevant areas of the system. It is possible to interface truck and bin scales in this way.

The industrial fixed or netbook & handheld scanner can be easily configured and installed without additional software development. The information captured on these terminals is sent immediately to a host system via either a hardwired or wireless network. The industrial terminals can come equipped with infra red scanners to read barcodes which reduce error.

Thermal transfer industrial printers are used. Using this printing technique, the cards do not fade in the sun and stand up to most weather and industrial conditions.


Although most of the information is captured using terminals, the administration program does provide the ability to enter relevant information through its windows based data entry screens.

It is important to note that a network infrastructure that will support the terminals, printers and scale interfaces must be in place throughout the site(s).

SAMPLE TICKET

 QA Pallet Tag Pallet #: E120804-16527	
KERNEL FINISHED GOODS	
Batch: E070403	TRN: 119109
Pool:	
Variety: Carmel	
Size: 20/22	
Grade: SSR	
Pack Size: 850 kg Bags	Unit Count: 1
Pallet 1 of 20	Net: 850.00 kg
Date: 4/08/12 Time: 1:17AM	

SAMPLE BIN TAG

	
Bin Tag:	20003
Run No.:	04972
Handler: ABC	
Grower: BLOSSOM ALMONDS	
Variety: Aldrich	
Field: NO FIELD	
Gross Weight:	2,000 lb
Tare:	200 lb
Net:	1,800 lb
Bin No.:	
BD Ref No.:	

HANDHELD SCANNER



TAG PRINTER



INDUSTRIAL TERMINAL

or

NETBOOK TERMINAL



Dynamic Software Solutions

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ALMADS Modules

It is possible to use automated, live shopfloor data capture tools or to manually enter data in all modules.



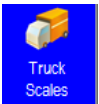
ALMADS Core System

This module is a collection of core areas that form a basis of the ALMADS system. These core areas include Growers, Handlers, Contracts, Varieties, Security, Categories and codes. This module is essential for the ALMADS system to operate.



Grower Scheduling

Receive calls from Trucking companies and Growers that need to deliver their product. Using this module you can schedule their deliveries and prepare a consistent stream of trucks.



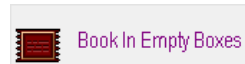
Truck Scales

This module covers all transactions that pass over your truck scales...
Incoming Grower Receivables
Taring Trucks for Bulk loads processed product pickups or Bi Product
Outgoing Processed Product (Meat / Inshell)
Outgoing Bi Product



Stockpile Management and Tank Management

This module uses an industrial terminal at the entrance of the stockpile yard to capture movements in and out of the yard. You also have the flexibility to perform similar tasks using the admin side of ALMADS if a terminal in the yard is not favorable. Tanks are also monitored and maintained if required through this module.



Book In Empty Boxes

Empty Bin Tracking

Used to track the amount of empty bins by handler that are on your site by booking them in when received over the Truck Scale. The consumption of these bins is matched when filling them. The system shows a comparison of used vs empty at any given time.



Runs and Bins Management

This module (one of the biggest) tracks product when released from a tank through to filling of bins and sent to the dispatch barn. A Terminal located within the vicinity of each bin scale Starts and Ends runs, add relevant Tanks to runs (using the Huller tickets and captures the tare and gross bins weights and Full Bin Tags are created and affixed to each bin). All operations can be watched and maintained in the Admin system by Management.



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ALMADS Modules cont...



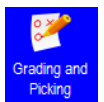
Warehousing

Storage tracking for bins and pallets in locations, rows, and levels and positions in rows, waiting to go to packing and also finished goods waiting to be shipped out. This module captures all movements into and out of the nominated warehouse(s). It also keeps a history of all movements performed on a raw bin or finished good pallet.



Marketing

Used to create buyer contract orders to be packed. This module also registers *Micro Testing* required for each order, the specific label requirement and the stock to use.



Grading & Picking

Once a marketing order is entered, this module is used to pick up the marketing order and select bins to be packed out for dispatch.



Quality Assurance

Records and tracks data and alerts management to any quality issues so a decision can be made about the product in process, or finished goods. Reports trends in the quality across the season.



Finished Goods & Shipping

Once marketing orders are filled and goods packed and stored in the warehouse, this module is used to ship out either meats/kernel and/or inshell finished goods.



Bi-Product (Commodity) Management (Hash, Shell and Hull)

Outgoing Bi-Product is tracked using this module and each movement is linked to a contract and client. The loads are assigned to release numbers per load and invoices and statements are generated all in this module.



Consumable Inventory

Keep track of consumable items bought in and used as part of the packing process to allow you to gauge when items need restocking.



Grower Accounts

This module collates and prepares invoices for the validated bins that have been filled for each Grower and prints the required documentation that goes with the invoicing process. The invoicing part of this module is link to the Grower accounts which tracks the invoices and payments and / or credits against a grower.



Management Reporting

Linked to all the modules, the management reporting tool collates data from all areas of the system to generate reports that cover the almond handling business. Reports access live data so that it can be used to inform management on performance throughout the season.



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ALMADS Modules cont...



Grower Web Portal

This is an exciting new addition to our ALMADS suite of modules. Hosted on a web server of your choice we can present pertinent information to your growers in real time. The reports published on the grower web portal cover most areas growers are interested in. Only validated data is passed up to the website so you can be assured the grower is only receiving complete and accurate information.



Administration

Handles the set up and storage of trucks/trailer licenses, printers, scales & terminals, employee security access, sizes & shifts.

Minimum Existing Hardware Recommendations

The following tables show the *minimum* recommended configurations for the correct operation of **ALMADS**. Configurations of lower functional specification than these listed here may result in **ALMADS** performing poorly.

Server Minimum Recommendations for ALMADS

Operating System	Windows 2003 Server
Database	Microsoft Windows SQL Server 2005
Hard Disk	>80GB hard disk
Memory	2 Gbytes
Processor	Genuine Intel Pentium 4, 3Ghz or above
Network Interface Card	32 Bit Listed on Microsoft Windows Hardware Compatibility List

Windows Client Workstation Minimum Recommendations

Operating System	Windows XP Professional
Hard Disk	> 1GB hard disk
Memory	512 Mbytes
Processor	Genuine Intel Pentium4, 1.8 Ghz or above
Network Interface Card	32 Bit Listed on Microsoft Windows Hardware Compatibility List

Note:

If other applications such as Microsoft Office will be used, their memory requirements should be taken into consideration.



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Network Requirements

Hard Wired Network

To fully capitalize on the distinct advantage ALMADS will bring to your business, ALMADS requires network capabilities within your plant. This would mean installing network ports near your bin scales, and pre-cleaner areas.

Potentially, 3 ports would be required near your bin scales for:

- Bin Terminal
- Tag Printer
- Interface to your bin scale

A single port is required at your pre cleaner for the pre cleaner terminal.

These network ports need then to be linked back to your office so the terminals can be controlled by a host in your nominated server room.

Wireless Network

In addition to the hardwired network, areas such as Meats Dispatch and Commodities to full advantage of using wireless terminals that have barcode readers installed.

These wireless terminals connect to the network by communicating to WAPs (Wireless Access Points) that would need to be installed in prominent locations where the wireless terminals would do most if not all of their work. The WAPs normally have a 300ft range, therefore hard wired cable would need to be installed and run to where the WAPs are to be installed to support the wireless terminals.

The wireless terminals (like the hardwired terminals) are recording and reading live at all times so that the database located in the office is updated with information real time.

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