

Implications of DSV's Acquisition of DB Schenker for the Global Restructuring of The Logistics Sector*

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Abstract

The goal of this research was to determine whether and to what extent the planned acquisition of DB Schenker by a Danish logistics operator DSV can lead to a permanent change in the market structure or the creation of synergy effects. Supported the research for potential synergies, opportunities for cost optimization as well as the implications on operational efficiency and enterprise value post merger. Several financial and strategic analytical tools were used to provide them with sufficient insights, including Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) analysis, EBITDA-to-revenue ratio, and enterprise value to EBITDA (EV/EBITDA) multiple, with the aim to enable their analytical conclusions to be more reliable, relevant, and accurate. The analysis was based on hard data from 2019 to 2023, as well as forward-looking financial forecasts. The findings point to a considerable bolstering of DSV's stand in the major logistics service components, specifically in the areas of air, ocean, and road freight. Expected expansion of revenues and all indicators of profitability could be viewed as a direct result of economies of scale and rationalization of functional structure. Like in other mergers & acquisitions in the transport and logistics (TSL) section, this transaction represents a strategic restructuring instrument to foster market consolidation and to strengthen the competitive position of globally active operator. The forecasted consolidated revenues of the merged company—between EUR 62 and 66 billion in 2028, which some could interpret as a sign of persistent stretching of the market. There are plenty types of studies conducted that aim at finding the results of M&A, which many result in greater productivity, and whether mergers do lead to increased capacities for product, or service, or research on the whole. Taking all considered into account, it can be assumed that the successful merger of DSV and DB Schenker will be able to revolutionize the logistics market, shifting it to a service provision model supported by new technological and operational solutions.

Keywords: global acquisition, supply chain integration, operational synergy, market consolidation