

**BOSCH**

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Asset Tracking: How to get started with your tracking project

Five key points to consider, from the right choice of technology to the degree of tracking accuracy

Tracking up-to-date information on the position and load status of shipping assets such as load carriers, truck trailers/ semi-trailers, locomotives, railroad engines and cars, and ocean freight containers throughout the supply chain is a multifaceted task. Before any tracking project can get off the ground, companies have to first determine exactly what their requirements are and pinpoint potential obstacles. This is the key to finding the right solution – that is, the combination of devices, technology, architecture, and functions that fits the use case best. Once businesses know what they need, they can opt for the tracking solution that will pay off over the long haul.

But what questions should companies be asking themselves to find that perfect solution? With many Track and Trace projects for load carriers to our credit, we have had ample opportunity to identify the five key questions that companies need to address.



Where are you going to use the solution?

Companies have to define where they want to deploy the tracking solution. That could be anything from local to global. This way, they can narrow down their options to the tracking technologies available in the target regions. Radio coverage is certainly a factor. Sigfox, for example, is widely available in western Europe, but coverage is often spotty in eastern European countries such as Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Businesses also have to comply with different regulations when tracking across national borders. The licensing rules for tracking software and hardware can vary from country to country. Enterprises also have to deal with issues such as waste disposal, local digital taxes, and customs procedures.

A tracking solution that also covers air cargo has to comply with certain security specifications. It has to be approved for air traffic by aviation safety agencies and its deployment coordinated with airlines.

Then there are safety rules for dangerous goods to consider. In Europe, companies have to comply with ATEX guidelines, among other regulations. For example, a company that wants to monitor gas shipments needs properly protected tracking devices that have been approved for use on tank containers.



To date, Lineas has connected 2,600 freight cars with Track and Trace and equipped them with gateways.