CHALLENGE
Matching shipping costs to The Louis Berger Group’s 30,000 project codes was time-consuming.

SOLUTION
With UPS CampusShip®, the company can assign a project code to each shipment, making allocation at the invoice-reconciliation stage easy. This saves the company the equivalent of one employee.

ON THE ROAD
STREAMLINED SHIPPING AND INVOICE RECONCILIATION SAVES AN ENGINEERING FIRM TIME AND MONEY.

Back in 1953, a Penn State engineer named Louis Berger launched a company, and its first project was to design a section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike – the first turnpike in the United States. Nearly 60 years later, The Louis Berger Group is still a leader in new infrastructure development. The company designs and constructs infrastructure, often in developing and sometimes even war-torn countries such as Afghanistan where it created the Kabul-Kandahar Highway.

As a standard course of business, The Louis Berger Group shares critical documents. With 3,000 employees in 35 countries, it needs an efficient system for shipping paperwork and allocating shipping costs by project. That’s why it counts on UPS.

DECENTRALIZED, EFFICIENT SHIPPING
With worldwide offices, The Louis Berger Group needs multi-location access to shipping options. UPS CampusShip® is the ideal solution because it allows staffers to access their UPS account from a web-based link on their desktops.
Plus, the shipping system is simple to use. “It’s very user friendly. It’s as easy as shopping online,” says Lou Boschetti, UPS senior account executive.

If additional Louis Berger locations need to use UPS CampusShip, it’s easy to set them up with a profile and get them started, says John Ingegneri, corporate purchasing manager at The Louis Berger Group.

UPS CampusShip links with the company’s corporate address book, automating the entry of address information. Employees can choose from easy dropdown menus to fill in shipment-related information. Eliminating the need to look up an address and then key it into the shipping system saves several minutes per shipment.

Plus, UPS CampusShip creates other efficiencies. “People can just print the label at their desks,” Ingegneri says. “They used to have to lug the package down to the mailroom [to have someone handle the shipment], and whenever you’re transferring information from one person to the next there’s room for error.”

**EASY COST ALLOCATION**

The Louis Berger Group can now automatically designate its U.S. government accounts for lower shipping rates that UPS allows based on the government’s shipping volume. Before, employees had to identify government projects manually and then apply the reduced shipping charges. “Being able to do this through the system is really beneficial,” Ingegneri says.

Being able to attribute costs accurately is also critical. The firm organizes costs by 30,000 project codes so shipping costs can be allocated to the appropriate client, department or project. By using project codes in UPS CampusShip to allocate shipping costs, The Louis Berger Group employees save a lot of time.

“Before, we had multiple people in multiple locations creating a bill of lading. Now people have to enter a project code to complete the bill of lading, so it’s tremendously helpful,” Ingegneri says.

On the backend, finance also saves time. With the old system, people in the accounts payable department would spend a lot of time tracking down who sent a shipment and what code should be applied to it.

Ingegneri estimates that it was the equivalent of a full-time job for someone to reconcile invoices. Now, one person in the New Jersey headquarters can settle the one consolidated bill, taking just a few hours a week.

“We estimated that switching to this system would save them $25,000 to $29,000, but our estimate was way too low,” says Boschetti. “The cost allocation benefits of UPS CampusShip and all of its benefits have actually saved about an entire employee’s time, allowing us to assign him to other tasks.”