Contents

Part I Logistics Requirements

1	Int	roducti	on	3		
	1.1	Resear	ch Questions	4		
	1.2		ch Context and Contributions	5		
	1.3	Thesis	Structure	6		
	Refe	erences		10		
2	Supply Network Management					
	2.1			13		
				14		
		2.1.2		16		
		2.1.3		17		
		2.1.4		19		
	2.2	Supply	0	20		
		2.2.1		20		
		2.2.2		22		
	2.3	Challe		25		
		2.3.1	•	26		
		2.3.2		$\frac{-9}{29}$		
				$\frac{-3}{31}$		
	2.4			$\frac{32}{32}$		
				99		

xiv Contents

3	Autonomous Control in Logistics 37					
	3.1	Paradigm Shift to Autonomous Control	38			
		3.1.1 Decentralised Decision-Making in Logistics	38			
		3.1.2 Potential for Autonomous Control	41			
		3.1.3 Limitations of Autonomous Control	42			
	3.2	Technologies Enabling Autonomous Control	44			
		3.2.1 Identification	46			
		3.2.2 Localisation	51			
		3.2.3 Sensor Technology	55			
		3.2.4 Communication	59			
		3.2.5 Data Processing	62			
	3.3	Conclusion	63			
		erences	64			
	10010	201000				
Par	rt II	Multiagent-Based Approach				
4	A ~~	ent Technology	73			
4	4.1	Intelligent Software Agents	74			
	4.1	4.1.1 Characteristics of Intelligent Agents	75			
			77			
	4.0		79			
	4.2	Multiagent Systems	81			
		4.2.1 Multiagent Platform	-			
		4.2.2 Agent Message Structure	81			
		4.2.3 Message Content Formatting	83			
		4.2.4 Agent Interaction Protocols	85			
	4.3	Multiagent Organisation	89			
		4.3.1 Structuring Multiagent Systems	90			
		4.3.2 Agent Team Formation	92			
		4.3.3 Applications of Agents in Logistics	94			
	4.4	Conclusion	96			
	Refe	erences	96			
5	Pot	ential for Cooperation in Autonomous Logistics	105			
	5.1	Participants in Autonomous Logistics				
		5.1.1 General Cargo Units	109			
		5.1.2 Providers of Transport Services	112			
		5.1.3 Providers of Handling Services				
		5.1.4 Providers of Storage Services				
		5.1.5 Providers of Picking Services				
	5.2	Organisational Structures				
	·	5.2.1 Teams of Logistics Service Providers				
		5.2.2 Teams of Logistics Service Consumers				
	5.3	Conclusion				
		References 14				

Contents xv

6	Tea	m Formation in Autonomous Logistics	129	
	6.1	Requirements and Related Work	129	
		6.1.1 Team Formation Roles and Tasks		
		6.1.2 Requirements in Autonomous Logistics		
		6.1.3 Previous Approaches		
	6.2	Team Formation Interaction Protocols	134	
		6.2.1 Team Formation by Directory	134	
		6.2.2 Team Formation by Broker	139	
		6.2.3 Team Formation by Multicast	141	
	6.3	Protocol Analysis and Comparison	144	
		6.3.1 Compliance with Requirements	144	
		6.3.2 Criteria for Estimation of Applicability	145	
		6.3.3 Protocol Categorisation	146	
	6.4	Conclusion	148	
	Refe	erences	149	
7		m Action in Autonomous Logistics		
	7.1	Individual Allocation of Logistics Services		
		7.1.1 Specifying Demand for Logistics Services		
		7.1.2 Negotiation about Logistics Services		
	7.2	Inter-Agent Collaboration	160	
		7.2.1 Joint Allocation of Logistics Services		
		7.2.2 Optimistic Allocation of Logistics Services		
		7.2.3 Conservative Allocation of Logistics Services		
	7.3	Intra-Agent Coordination		
		7.3.1 Execution Order of Logistics Functions		
		7.3.2 Planning Order of Logistics Functions		
		7.3.3 Coordinating the Logistics Functions		
		7.3.4 Supply Network Exception Management		
	7.4	Conclusion		
	Refe	erences	173	
Par	t III	Application and Evaluation		
8	Imp	plementing Autonomous Logistics	177	
	8.1	Multiagent-Based Implementation		
		8.1.1 Multiagent Platform		
		8.1.2 Implementation of Team Formation		
		8.1.3 Implementation of Team Action		
	8.2	Multiagent-Based Simulation		
		8.2.1 Time Model and Synchronisation Mechanism		
		8.2.2 Agent-Specific Message Handling Requirements		
		8.2.3 Middleware for Multiagent-Based Simulation		
	8.3	Conclusion		
	References			

xvi Contents

9	AC	Case St	cudy in Container Logistics	195	
	9.1 Company Background				
		9.1.1	Company History and Development	196	
		9.1.2	Range of Products and Sales Strategy	197	
		9.1.3	Company Structure and Key Figures		
	9.2	Procu	rement Logistics Processes	200	
		9.2.1	Supply Network Reorganisation	200	
		9.2.2	Transport from East Asia to Europe	202	
		9.2.3	Onward Carriage to Warehouses	209	
	9.3	Partic	ipating Logistics Entities		
		9.3.1	Shipping Containers		
		9.3.2	Ports of Discharge		
		9.3.3	Warehouses		
		9.3.4	Transport Relations		
	9.4		usion		
	Refe	erences		221	
10	an a	•,•	T	000	
10			to Autonomous Logistics		
	10.1		tial for Cooperation		
			Decreasing the External Interaction Effort		
			Increasing the Resource Utilisation Efficiency		
	10.0		Appropriate Degree for Autonomous Control		
	10.2		and Limitations of Cooperation		
			Effort of Team Formation by Directory and Multicast.		
			Effort of Team Formation by Broker		
	10.9		Limitations for Autonomous Control		
	10.3		ss Control by Autonomous Logistics		
			Coverage of Industry Requirements		
			Utilisation of Storage Resources		
			Utilisation of Transport Resources		
			Comparison to Present Process Control		
	10.4		usion		
			usion		
	10010	rences		200	
11	Cor	ıclusio	n and Outlook	261	
			rch Questions Revisited		
			tions for Future Research		
			Inter-Agent Collaboration		
			Inter-Agent Coordination		
	Refe				
Tnd	OV			260	