



Company History

1981

Established by Gordon Pascoe, Gordon's Airfreight (Pty) Ltd was registered as a company on 9 October 1980 and opened its doors for business on 2nd February 1981 in Kempton Park (close to Johannesburg International Airport) as a Customs Clearing Agent. Shareholders at the time were Pascoe (25%), S. Bacher & Co (Pty) Ltd (better known as Lanco Watch - 50%) and Friedland Stores (better known as Dion Stores - 25%).

Total staff compliment consisted of five persons namely;

- Gordon Pascoe
- Cassim Patel
- Michelle Bischoff
- Albert Zwane
- Elliot Baikie

Geoffrey Sithole, Douw de Beer and Simon Makubela joined the company later in the same year and Gordon Pascoe's wife, Lynne Pascoe, assisted with accounts (until about 1993).

1982

Company enters into an agreement with Hong Kong based forwarder Baltrans in its first steps to offer international forwarding services to its customers.

1983

In line with expansion by Dion Stores, Megafreight Services (Pty) Ltd was formed to handle ocean freight with Dions taking up 75% of the shares in the company. Mike Els joined the company on 15th December 1983 to head up the ocean freight division. Megafreight installs its first computer system.

1984

Gordon's Airfreight (Pty) Ltd is merged with Megafreight and the company moves to larger premises. Company acquires Transpacific Shipping (Pty) Ltd while German based forwarder M&M Militzer & Munch is appointed as the first large international agent of the company along



with Marine Land Air Transport in Taiwan among a number of other independent forwarders around the globe.

1985

Following the by now infamous “Rubicon speech”, Dions experiences substantial exchange losses and in the process of disposing of its subsidiaries, Megafreight is sold to competitor Oceanair where it continues to trade separately under its own name.

1986

Oceanair sells to Safcor and in May Gordon Pascoe and Mike Els acquire 100% of Megafreight Services (Pty) Ltd and re-commence trading on 1st June 1986 in premises shared with a friendly competitor (Freightech) in the back of their small warehouse. Staff compliment;

Gordon Pascoe

Mike Els

Geoffrey Sithole

Albert Zwane

Lynne Pascoe

International partnerships renewed.

1988

By now the company has moved into its own premises with a larger staff compliment and Megafreight develops its own operations software (written in UX-Basic by Gordon Pascoe) running on a small Unix 386 computer network. Rohek buys a minority interest in the company.

1991

Branch opened in Durban headed by Krish Dorasami. Operational software development is outsourced to a specialist software house and re-written in INFORMIX. IBM Risc computer installed linking Durban branch while Compu-Clearing system utilised for customs entry processing. Gordon Pascoe & Mike Els acquire Rohek minority interest. Total staff compliment now just under 80 people.

1994



Branch opened in Cape Town headed by Wayne Lazo and Leon Delport with Jane Reinhardt playing an active management role as well. Marianne Schlosser joins the company at its Johannesburg branch which moves into larger premises in Isando. Total staff compliment reaches 120.

1995

MegaFreight appoints SDV as its exclusive global partner.

1996

Specialist customs clearing company Alliance Freight formed and headed by Jose Nobrega and Bernie Britt who own 40% of the shares with MegaFreight holding 60%. Branch opened in Pietermaritzburg. Durban branch moves into larger (owned) premises in Bay Terrace.

1998

MegaFreight acquires 51% stake in Johannesburg based customs agent Freight Clearing & Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd headed by Hennie Enslin, Pieter Henning and Adriaan Mans. Branch opened in Bloemfontein. SDV terminates it's agreement with MegaFreight who appoints BDP International as its new key global partner.

2000

Alliance Freight and Freight Clearing & Consulting merged into MegaFreight Services (Pty) Limited. MegaFreight moves offices to Pomona where Freight Clearing is located. MegaFreight acquires balance of Freight Clearing shares.

2001

MegaFreight acquires 100% of JH Bachmann & Co (Pty) Ltd from Imperial Holdings who in turn acquires 60% in MegaFreight. The trading name of the company is changed to Bachmann-MegaFreight and BDP terminates its exclusive agency with MegaFreight who appoints JH Bachmann as its exclusive partner. With the addition of JH Bachmann, MegaFreight now has offices in Pretoria and Port Elizabeth. Staff compliment reaches 300 following the acquisition.

2003

JH Bachmann South Africa offices in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town merged with MegaFreight offices. Johannesburg offices move into new (owned) premises in Jet Park. Staff compliment settles around 230. Bloemfontein and Pietermaritzburg offices closed.



2004

JH Bachmann internationally is sold to DFDS and Megafreight in turn appoints DFDS as its new exclusive global partner. Company drops Bachmann from its name and reverts to trading as Megafreight.

2008

Total staff compliment exceeds 240 and Durban branch moves to larger offices. DSV (formerly DFDS) terminates its exclusive agency agreement with Megafreight after it acquired ABX and Megafreight appoints IJS Global and Scan Global Logistics as its new exclusive partners.