

THE LOADING DOCK

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Connected operations

What changing automotive supply chains and integrated warehouse networks mean for the next handoff.



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Automotive supply chains: flexibility, visibility, and the limits of the evidence

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Field notes: five questions to bring to your logistics partner

Reporting and original NDE analysis are identified separately.

Automotive supply chains put flexibility and visibility in focus



What the report found

On September 23, 2026, FedEx and Reuters Events published research based on a global survey of 81 automotive professionals. Seventy-three percent expected software-defined vehicles to be very or extremely important to their businesses over the next five years. These vehicles rely increasingly on software, sensors, and electronic components, creating different supply-chain requirements from a traditional mechanical-parts model.

Where investment is heading

The report identifies regionalization or nearshoring (46%), supplier diversification (44%), and end-to-end visibility and tracking (37%) as investment priorities over the next three years. Thirty-seven percent of respondents reported changing inbound or outbound transport modes in the previous year. The findings describe a surveyed group's priorities; they do not measure every automotive business or establish a forecast for regional delivery demand.

Why a small shipment can matter — NDE analysis

A dealership or repair operation may receive only a few cartons at a time, yet those cartons can be tied to a customer appointment or a vehicle waiting for repair. The planning question is therefore broader than the price of transporting a box. The shipper needs to understand what happens when an item is delayed, the receiver changes, or a replacement part must return. That operational interpretation is NDE's analysis, not a result measured by the survey.

Automotive supply chains put flexibility and visibility in focus

Visibility starts with useful information

A tracking screen is only useful when the underlying shipment details are complete. Before selecting a logistics workflow, decide what reference connects the shipment to an order, who needs to receive an exception notice, and what confirms a completed handoff. A timestamp without a clear receiver or item count may still leave staff with questions. Ask a prospective carrier what information it can provide and how the team will access it; do not assume every provider's system offers identical features.

A practical route review for dealerships

Review an ordinary week alongside a busy week. Distinguish recurring replenishment from one-off urgent requests, and separate outbound parts from returns. A route discussion should include the following:

- Which locations ship repeatedly, and on which days?
- What are the typical item dimensions, weights, and stop counts?
- Who can clarify a mismatch between the shipment and the receiving order?
- What happens to refused, damaged, or undeliverable items?
- Which delivery confirmations does the shipper need to retain?

What the evidence cannot tell you

The report is a useful signal about industry priorities, but it does not show that a particular carrier has capacity for your lane. It also does not establish NDE pricing, delivery times, shipment visibility features, or support for sensitive electronic components. Those details require a direct service discussion. Treat industry research as a reason to ask better questions, then evaluate the provider against your actual shipments.

The next decision

If your business is planning a recurring route, bring the pickup locations, destinations, shipment profile, and desired confirmation process to NDE. The useful outcome is a clearly understood scope and handoff process. NDE must confirm coverage, handling requirements, timing, and pricing before the route begins.

Reporting source: FedEx newsroom · September 23, 2026

Connecting warehouse operations with the last mile



What FedEx announced

On September 10, 2026, FedEx announced plans to invest more than US\$15 million in Brazil. The project includes 34 facilities and expanded distribution infrastructure. FedEx described multifunctional centers combining international transportation and supply-chain operations, including last-mile distribution for point-of-sale equipment and critical deliveries. These are announced plans and services in Brazil, not an expansion of NDE's network.

Storage and distribution in the same plan

The announcement describes an expansion at Cajamar from 55,000 to 90,000 pallet positions, alongside automation and sorting upgrades. It also describes a warehouse expansion in Jaboatão dos Guararapes from 16,000 to 26,000 square meters. Its redesigned service portfolio brings together customs clearance, storage, and preparation for final destinations. The figures show the scale of FedEx's stated project; they are not measures of capacity available to individual shippers today.

Why the connection matters — NDE analysis

The useful lesson for a regional shipper is the relationship between storage and movement. Inventory can arrive intact and still miss its next step if no one knows which order it belongs to or when it should leave. A warehouse plan should therefore explain both the incoming freight and the outgoing requirements. That planning perspective is NDE's analysis of the announcement, not a claim that the Brazilian project guarantees lower costs or faster deliveries.

THE LOADING DOCK / ANALYSIS & PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS

Connecting warehouse operations with the last mile

Choose the flow before choosing the space

Start by distinguishing freight that will stay in storage from freight that needs sorting and transfer to outbound transport. Then identify what preparation is actually required before dispatch. Receiving pallets, holding cartons, selecting items for an order, packing, and handing freight to a driver are different tasks. A request for “fulfillment” can mean several of them. Describe the tasks in plain language so the provider can confirm which ones it supports.

The handoff questions to resolve

Before an inbound load arrives, agree on how the receiving team will identify it and what should happen next. The following questions turn a general warehouse inquiry into a more useful operating conversation:

- What arrives: pallet count, item count, dimensions, and approximate weight?
- What stays in storage, and what should move straight through?
- How are destinations and order references attached to the freight?
- Who confirms discrepancies, damage, or unexpected quantities?
- What outbound schedule is requested, and who must approve changes?

Plan for uneven volume

A single average volume can hide the moments that require the most coordination. Share the expected number of inbound and outbound movements, but also describe busy days, seasonal surges, and the length of time inventory may remain. If the volume is uncertain, say so. Discuss an ordinary week and an overflow scenario separately. That gives both parties a clearer basis for assessing the requested scope, rather than treating available floor area as the only consideration.

What this announcement does not establish

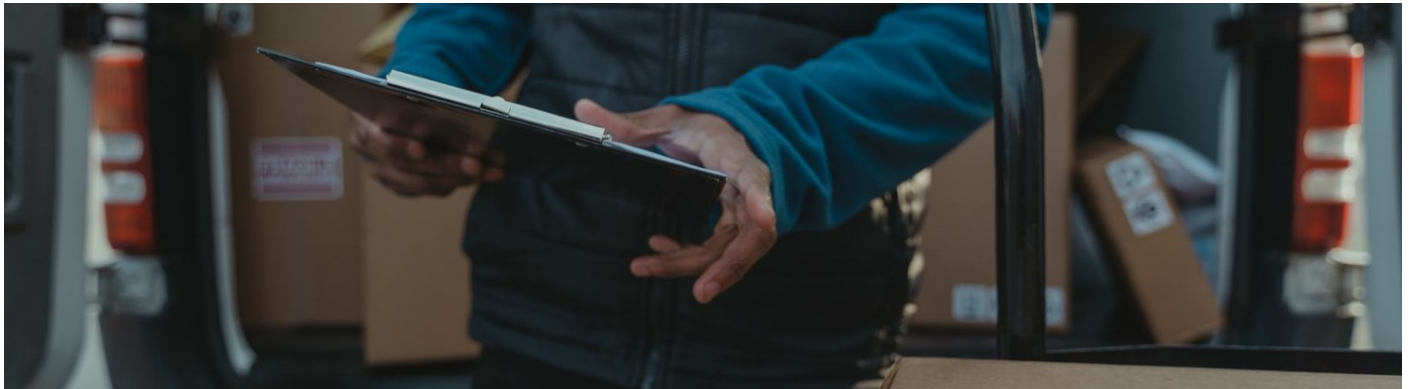
An investment announcement does not prove that every planned site has opened or that a specific storage service is available on a given date. This article does not independently verify the completion of the Brazilian facilities. It also does not imply a relationship between FedEx and NDE. For an NDE warehouse inquiry, location, space, handling capabilities, fulfillment tasks, timing, and pricing must be confirmed by the team.

The next decision

Bring NDE an inventory description and a simple account of how it should move: arrival, storage or transfer, preparation if needed, and outbound destination. Explain which parts of that flow you want help with. The conversation can then focus on whether the service fits your operation and what remains to be confirmed.

Reporting source: FedEx newsroom · September 10, 2026

Make the next handoff clearer.



A practical planning checklist

- List pickup and delivery locations, contact names, and recurring days.
- Describe item counts, dimensions, weight, and handling needs.
- Explain what stays in storage, what transfers onward, and what preparation is requested.
- Identify the person who can resolve damage, discrepancies, or an unavailable receiver.
- Discuss expected volume and an overflow scenario separately.

Start a conversation with NDE

Delivery, warehouse support, cross-docking, and pickup or return needs begin with your shipment details. Scope, service availability, timing, and pricing require direct confirmation.

205-777-3343 · customerservice@nationaldeliveryexpress.com

[Request a quote on the NDE website](#)

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