OIS Ease of Use Tools

1. An easy to use interface, including powerful model set-up wizards, model and scenario management tools, and on-line help.
2. In addition to profit maximization, ***OIS*** can also solve for cost, energy, or carbon emission minimization. In all cases it *simultaneously* optimizes raw material sourcing, intermediate and finished product manufacturing, and finished goods distribution.
3. Ability to handle extremely large, complex “cost of goods sold (COGS)” networks
4. All models subject to a variety of constraints including: i) resource limits (procurements, manufacturing, throughput, storage, etc.) , ii) customer service levels and iii) managerial policy requirements.
5. Built-in databases and associated support modules, including:
	1. World-wide geo-reference data;
	2. World-wide mapping capability;
	3. World-wide capability to generate highly accurate road distances and times
6. Ability to explicitly include duties, taxes and local content restrictions where appropriate;
7. Ability to process primary source data extracted from client business systems, especially detailed transaction history files
8. Comprehensive built-in model baseline (validation) capabilities;
9. Scenario generation capability which enables the analyst to rapidly configure and execute unlimited “what-if” exercises;
10. Ability to explicitly model multiple time periods in order to address seasonality issues (months) and/or do long-range strategic planning (years);
11. Built-in inventory analysis module capable of generating estimates at the customer facing location/SKU level for cycle, safety and in-transit inventories;
12. Built-in reporting capability, including maps, business graphics, and over 160 written reports including landed energy consumption, landed carbon emission and landed cost (i.e. cost-to-serve) for each location/commodity in the network. This is of particular interest at the customer region/channel/finished product level because a given combination is defined to be profitable only if the selling price exceeds the cost-to-serve;
13. Interface to Microsoft (MS) Office Excel™ and Access™ for both input data preparation and solution export. Also, ability to generate output files designed specifically for external graphics packages such as Tableau©.