



# New warehouse and supply chain models

**What:** Digital tools and platforms that allow small businesses to reach more customers by decentralizing, automating, and digitizing their supply chain.

**Why:** To future proof the small business sector, businesses need to innovate with transformative, digital plans for their entire supply chain. New models that offer businesses more transparency and cooperation with tech innovators and other actors in the supply chain are increasingly important for their competitiveness, as they can enhance and increase their interactions with customers and optimize processes and service offerings. As economies reopen, governments should consider how best to help accelerate this transformation for main street businesses.

**Testing grounds:** Flowspace is an online warehouse management platform that allows shop owners to ship products from thousands of warehouse locations across the U.S. without having onsite warehouse space of their own. [Flowspace](#) selects the best courier to transport the goods to their destination and takes care of selecting, packaging, and shipping the product. By working with decentralized fulfillment warehouses, businesses do not have to worry about storing inventory or running out of warehouse space and can deliver from a warehouse close to them, thereby reducing delivery time and costs.

REEF Technology turns underutilized real estate into dynamic logistics hubs through 4,500 locations that serve 70 percent of North America’s dense urban areas. REEF operates [modular distribution trailers](#) that are available on-demand to allow nearby retailers to store inventory, even refrigerated or frozen goods, for delivery by last-mile partners using e-cargo bikes. This model is being [piloted in Miami](#) as a partnership between the City of Miami, the Downtown Development Authority, Miami Parking Authority, REEF Technology and DHL. The four e-cargo bikes used in this pilot will reduce emissions equivalent to taking 31 passenger vehicles off the road every year.

