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OUTCOMPETING IN E-COMMERCE



IN THEORY ANYONE COULD LIST THEIR BOOK LIBRARY ON THE WEB AND BECOME A WIDELY SUCCESSFUL ONLINE RETAILER - THE NEXT AMAZON. LOOKING AT THE AMOUNT OF E-COMMERCE TECHNOLOGY RELATED VENDORS AND SOLUTIONS FOR EVERYTHING FROM INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS TO DROP-SHIPPING, PACKAGING AND RE-MARKETING AND CONVERSION, WHICH PROMISE SET-UP AND OPERATIONS IN MINUTES WITH EASY AND SIMPLICITY, THE PATH TO BECOMING THE NEXT JEFF BEZOS HAS NEVER BEEN MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD AND MORE WITHIN REACH.

YET, IN PRACTICE, CREATING AND MAINTAINING A SUCCESSFUL E-COMMERCE BUSINESS OR AN E-COMMERCE DEPARTMENT WITHIN AN EXISTING ESTABLISHED TRADITIONAL RETAIL CORPORATE ORGANISATION IS ANYTHING BUT EASY AND STRAIGHTFORWARD.





STARTING UP A NEW E-COMMERCE BUSINESS OR CREATING A NEW DTC CHANNEL AN ERETAIL PARTNERSHIP (WHOLESALE.COM) IS DISRUPTIVE AND CHALLENGING, AND PEOPLE AND TEAMS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING IT A SUCCESS HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL WITH BOTH OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TASKS AND STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF A NEW VENTURE AND NEW SALES CHANNEL.

WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT, TODAY MORE THEN EVER, THERE ARE NUMEROUS SOLUTIONS AND MODELS FOR BRINGING YOUR BUSINESS ONLINE AND BECOMING AN ONLINE RETAIL BUSINESS, IT IS EVEN MORE TRUE THAT THESE LOW ENTRY BARRIERS OR EASY MARKET ENTRY HAS MADE E-COMMERCE A HYPER-COMPETITIVE INDUSTRY.



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LOW MARKET ENTRY BARRIERS MADE E-COMMERCE A HYPER-COMPETITIVE INDUSTRY WITH CUT-THROAT PRICE COMPETITION DETERMINED BY DYNAMIC PRICING ALGORITHMS AND SCALE OF LOGISTIC OPERATIONS WHICH YIELD RAZOR THIN MARGIN.



E-COMMERCE WEBSITES CURRENTLY COMPRISE 10-12% OF THE INTERNET OR ROUGHLY ONE BILLION OF WEBSITES AGGREGATED ON THE INTERNET. THAT'S OVER 100 MILLION E-RETAILERS ALL OVER THE WORLD THAT COMPETE TO GAIN A SHARE OF THE ESTIMATED \$1.5 TRILLION ONLINE MARKET.

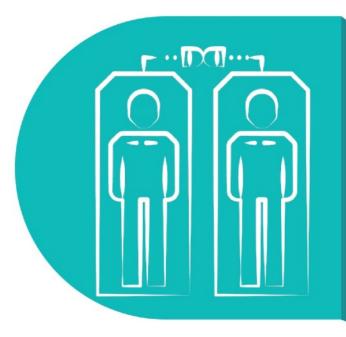


RETAILERS FACE A LOT OF COMPETITION, BOTH ONLINE AND OFFLINE. AND IN MANY CASES THE PRODUCTS THEY SELL ARE VERY SIMILAR. AS AN E-COMMERCE MARKETER, HOW DO YOU DIFFERENTIATE? HOW CAN YOU ENSURE THAT YOUR E-COMMERCE BUSINESS IS NOT SEEN AS A COMMODITY?





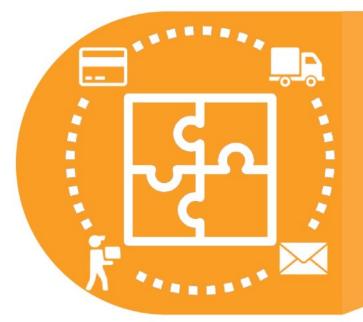
START BY CREATING (DIFFERENTIATING AND UNIQUE) BETTER E-COMMERCE SHOPPING EXPERIENCES TO DRIVE CUSTOMER LOYALTY AND STAND APART FROM THE CROWD.







THIS IS WHY THE POST-PURCHASE, AND DIFFERENTIATION IN POST-PURCHASE IS YOUR GATEWAY TO CREATION OF UNIQUE SHOPPING EXPERIENCES AND CUSTOMER LOYALTY.



THE LENGTH OF DELIVERY TIME, VARIETY OF DELIVERY OPTIONS, TRACKING VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATIONS, HOW YOUR PRODUCT IS PACKAGED, THE EASE OF EXCHANGES AND RETURNS—IT ALL CONTRIBUTES TO YOUR BRAND PERCEPTION (PROMISES YOU MAKE) AS A WHOLE.



MEETING THEM OR FAILING THEM HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON YOUR TOP LINE REVENUE AS IT WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THE CUSTOMERS WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE AND START DEVELOPING LOYALTY AND JOIN THE REPEAT CUSTOMER SEGMENT THAT CAN DRIVE UP TO 40% OF REVENUE FOR AN AVERAGE E-RETAILER.

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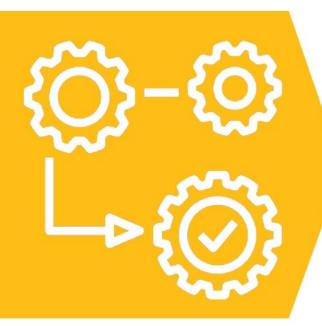
BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW ON WHICH ELEMENTS OF POST-PURCHASE CAN YOU DIFFERENTIATE AND HOW? WHAT ARE THE MARKET AVERAGES AND IMPLIED CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS? LEARN FROM THE BEST TO WIN - GET INSIGHTS FROM COMPETITIVE BENCHMARKING OF LEADING E-RETAILERS.





DENCHMARKING IS A TOOL FOR THE SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF THE COMPETITIVE POWER OF AN ENTERPRISE. IT IS A PROCESS OF COMPARING ONE'S BUSINESS PROCESSES AND PERFORMANCE METRICS TO INDUSTRY BESTS OR BEST PRACTICES FROM OTHER COMPANIES.

IN THE PROCESS OF BEST PRACTICE BENCHMARKING, MANAGEMENT IDENTIFIES THE BEST FIRMS IN THEIR INDUSTRY, OR IN ANOTHER INDUSTRY WHERE SIMILAR PROCESSES EXIST, AND COMPARES THE RESULTS AND PROCESSES OF THOSE STUDIED (THE"TARGETS") TO ONE'S OWN RESULTS AND PROCESSES. IN THIS WAY, THEY LEARN HOW WELL THE TARGETS PERFORM AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE BUSINESS PROCESSES THAT EXPLAIN WHY THESE FIRMS ARE SUCCESSFUL.





INSIGHTS GAINED FROM STRATEGIC BENCHMARKING RESULTS WILL BE YOUR DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO DETERMINE ACROSS WHICH DIMENSIONS THE TARGET MARKET COMPETES AND ACROSS WHICH DIMENSIONS OF POST-PURCHASE YOU CAN DIFFERENTIATE WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ESTABLISHED MARKET AVERAGES.





STRATEGIC BENCHMARKING OF POST-PURCHASE PERFORMANCE OF LEADING E-RETAILERS IS AT THE HEART OF THE SO DIGITAL GLOBAL E-COMMERCE BRAND EXCELLENCE PLATFORM.

OUR PLATFORM ENABLES COMPETITIVE CROSS INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKING OF BEST PERFORMING E-RETAILERS ACROSS DIMENSIONS OF ONLINE (POST)PURCHASE EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PHASES OF DELIVERY, TRACKING, PACKAGING - OUT OF BOX EXPERIENCE, AND RETURN & REFUNDS.

AE - Estimated lead time at checkout

What was communicated as the expected delivery lead time? In case expected delivery lead time is 2-5 days please take 5 days, number 2)

AE - Order date: (mm/dd/yyyy)

Actual date on which the order was placed.

AE - Delivery date

Actual date on which the first delivery attempt by the carrier was made.

AE - Delivery Lead time

Number of days it took from Order

There was an issue with the order (incorrect

product, order delayed, etc). Use comments

placement until delivery

IT IS A MANAGEMENT TOOL THAT HELPS COMPANIES FORMULATE, EVALUATE, AND IMPROVE THEIR E-COMMERCE STRATEGIES BY PROVIDING A SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF COMPETITIVE PERFORMANCE OF POST-PURCHASE EXPERIENCE ACROSS MARKETS.



DISCOVER HOW YOU COMPARE AGAINST BEST PERFORMING E-RETAILERS ACROSS DIFFERENT MARKETS AND UNCOVER THEIR REASONS OF SUCCESS BY CONTACTING US TODAY AND SCHEDULING A FREE NO-COMMITMENT 1-ON-1 WALK THROUGH OF THE CLIENT USE CASE OF NIKE (EMEA).

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METHODOLOGY

PREPARATION EXECUTION REPORTING **Product Ordering Country Sample Data Controlling** & Returning Selection Representative Retailers **Scorecard Answering** Final Data Input **Sample Selection Scorecard Question Input Controlling Platform Publishing** Selection **Researchers Selection** Researcher

Controlling

Onboarding

POST-PURCHASE EVALUATION ELEMENTS



'Buy" Button

BEFORE THE "BUY" BUTTON

BEFORE THE ACTUAL CLICK ON "BUY" BUTTON, RESEARCHERS LOOK UP ALL "PROMISED EXPERIENCE" PRODUCT-RELATED INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE - SUCH AS ESTIMATED LEAD TIME ON CHECK-OUT, POSSIBLE DELIVERY DAYS, PLACE AND AVAILABILITY CHOICE, AND ALSO TRY OUT CROSS-CHANNEL FUNCTIONALITY. AVAILABLE SERVICES LIKE CASH & TRY ON DELIVERY, CANCELLATION WINDOW, SUSTAINABILITY PROMOTION AND PAYMENT OPTIONS ARE CHECKED AND RECORDED. ORDERING PROCESS BEGINS.



Delivery

DELIVERY PHASE

ACTUAL DELIVERY TIME AND POSSIBLE ORDER ISSUES ARE TRACKED. COMPARISON TO A "PROMISED" EXPERIENCE BEGINS.



Tracking

TRACKING

CONVENIENCE AND VISIBILITY OF TRACKING ORDERS ARE CHECKED. RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATED DELIVERY DATE AND ITS DISPLAY AT CHECKOUT AND IN TRACKING EMAILS ARE COMPARED, AND COMMUNICATIONS ANALYSED - SUCH AS ORDER CONFIRMATION, SHIPMENT AND DELIVERY CONFIRMATION.

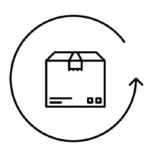


Packaging
Out of box

PACKAGING - OUT OF BOX

OUT OF BOX EXPERIENCE, PACKAGING, BRANDING, PRODUCT PRESENTATION, AS WELL AS GIFT WRAPPING AND MESSAGING EXPERIENCES ARE TRACKED ALONGSIDE WITH PHOTOS.

SPECIAL PACKAGING, PROMOTIONS AND PERSONALISATION ARE ALL LOOKED INTO.



Returns

RETURNS

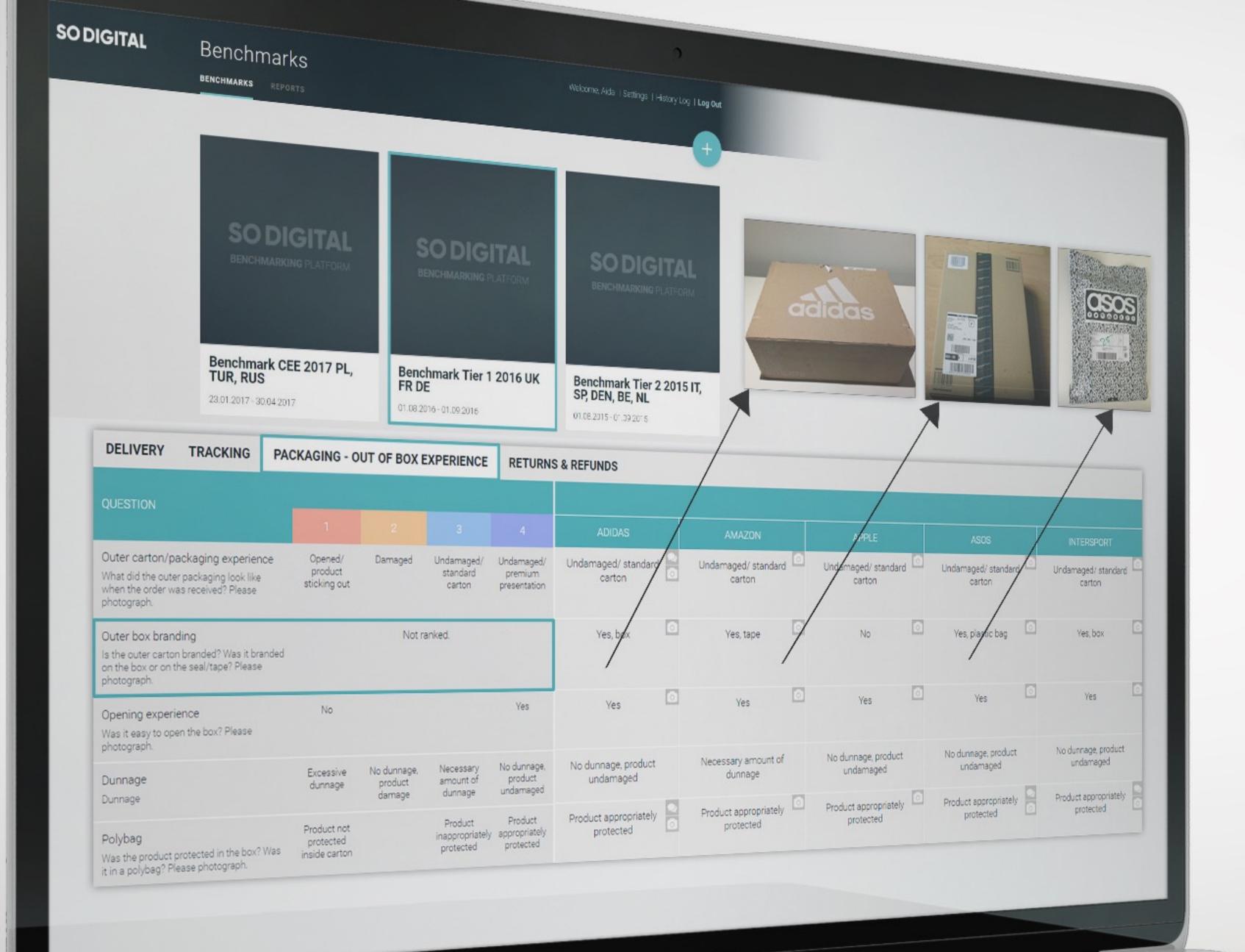
EASE OF RETURNS LIKE AVAILABILITY OF DROP OFF POINTS, COLLECT AT HOME OPTION AND EXCHANGE POSSIBILITY, RETURN POLICY, PROCESS AND ITS SIMPLICITY, SEAMLESS RETURNS AS WELL AS RETURN FEES ARE TESTED.



Refunds

<u>REFUNDS</u>

REFUND LEAD TIME, AVAILABILITY OF INSTANT REFUNDING AS WELL AS REFUND TRACKING COMMUNICATION ARE RECORDED AND ANALYSED.



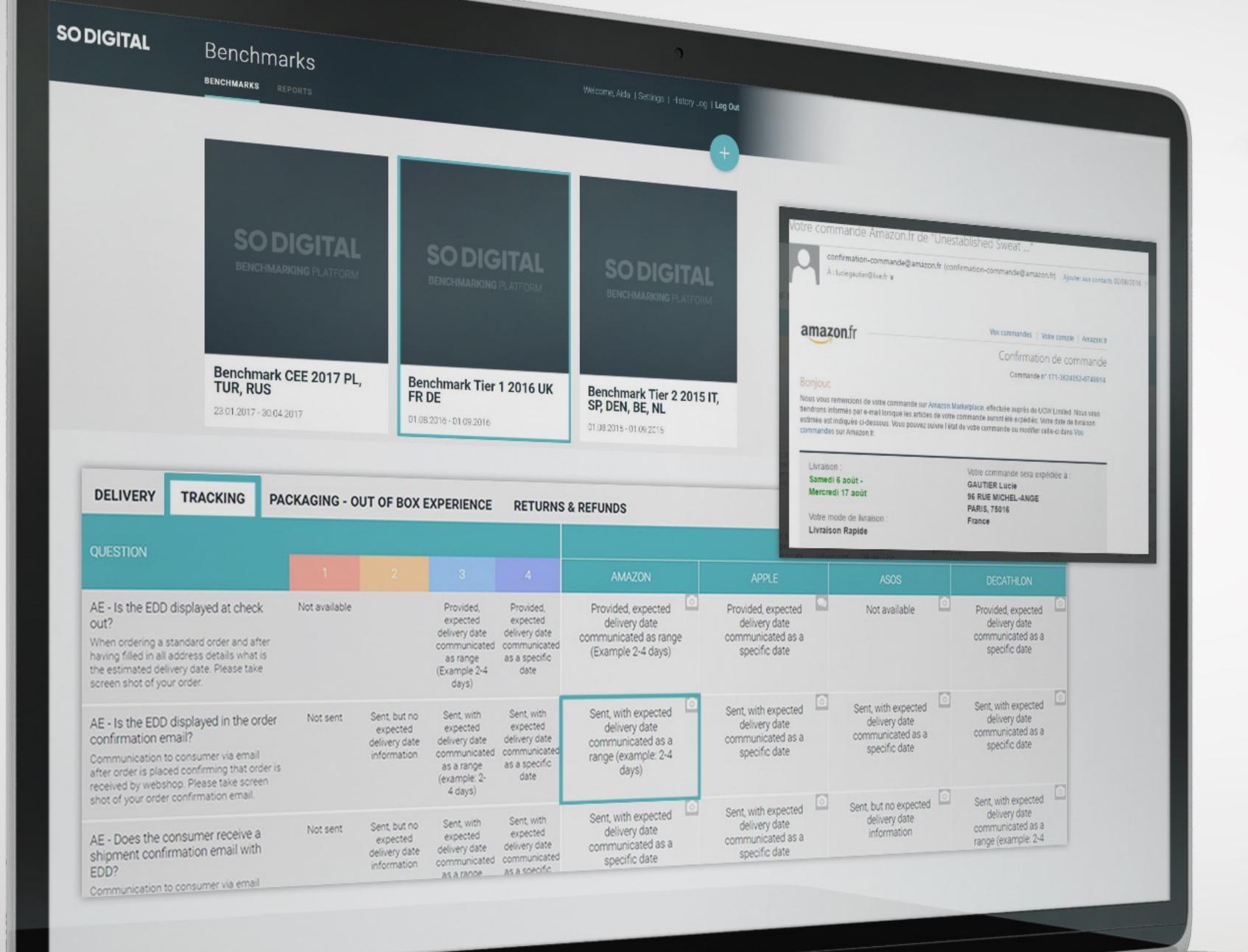
SCORECARD

OUR SCORECARD/ QUESTIONNAIRE INCLUDES AROUND 100 QUESTIONS, MOST OF THEM WITH A SCALE OF 4 POSSIBLE STANDARDISED ANSWER OPTIONS.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON EACH FIELD WITH ATTACHED PHOTOS AND SCREEN SHOTS ARE ENABLED.

DEPENDING ON THE PHASE, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 10 TO 40 QUESTIONS INCLUDED.

WEBSITE INFORMATION IS CLEARLY SEPARATED FROM THE ACTUAL EXPERIENCE.



SCORECARD

PROOFS PROVIDED INCLUDE PHOTOS
AND SCREEN SHOTS. PHOTOGRAPHS ARE
TAKEN IN THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTUAL
EXPERIENCE PHASE - PACKAGING & OUT
OF BOX EXPERIENCE PHASE.

IN THIS WAY, CLIENT CAN SEE WHAT THE FIRST PHYSICAL ENCOUNTER OF THE CUSTOMER WITH THEIR PRODUCT LOOKS LIKE - FROM PACKAGING, ACTUAL PRODUCT, TO GIFT WRAP AND MESSAGING.

IN OTHER PHASES, SCREEN SHOTS ARE TAKEN - OF CHECKOUT PAGE, AS WELL AS TRACKING, REFUND AND RETURN COMMUNICATION (EMAILS).



REPORTS

PLATFORM USERS ARE ABLE TO INSPECT INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS AND THEIR PERFORMANCE VIA THE SCORECARD, WHILE MARKET PERFORMANCE INSIGHTS ARE DERIVED FROM THE REPORTS MODULE.

USER CAN CREATE REPORTS ON INDIVIDUAL PHASES OF THE POST-PURCHASE, ACROSS MARKETS, WITHIN INDIVIDUAL MARKETS, AS WELL AS ON THE LEVEL OF INDIVIDUAL RETAILERS.

IN THIS WAY IT'S POSSIBLE TO INSPECT / COMPARE RETAILERS PERFORMANCE ACROSS MARKETS AS WELL AS MARKET'S AVERAGE PERFORMANCES TO DEDUCE RELEVANT INSIGHTS.

PRICING MODEL

SUBSCIRPTION PACKAGES	BASIC	MEDIUM	PREMIUM	INTERNATIONAL
PLATFORM ACCESS / USERS	2 x	5 x	10 x	15 x
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	1 x	3 x	5 x	7 x
DATABASE REFRESH PER YEAR	1 x	1 x	2 x	2 x YEAR
TAILORED QUESTIONS (SCORECARD)	X	+ 2000 E PER COUNTRY	+ 1700 E PER COUNTRY	+ 1500 E PER COUNTRY
TAILORED SAMPLE (RETAILERS SELECTION)	X	X	+ 3000 E PER COUNTRY	+ 2500 E PER COUNTRY
PRICE / YEAR	5.000 E	10.000 E	15.000 E	20.000 E

Research solely and exclusively focuses on the **POST-PURCHASE** phase of **E-COMMERCE** shopping/ buying journey. This in effect means we research, measure and provide data points according to the **SCORECARD** about following elements and their characteristics and performance: **Tracking** (options, mechanism), **Delivery** (policies, options, mechanism), **Packaging and Out of Box Experience** (characteristics of the package, opening experience & presentation, photos included), **Returns & Refunds** (policies and mechanism).

All prices are excluding VAT. Denominated & payable in EUR. SO DIGITAL General Terms and Conditions Apply (available on our site) By accepting the offer you accept to abide by them.

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THANK YOU