WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A shipping system for use in transporting and/or storing temperature-sensitive materials, the shipping system comprising:

(a) an insulation unit, the insulation unit shaped to include a cavity bounded by a bottom wall, four side walls, and an open top, wherein the insulation unit comprises a plurality of vacuum insulated panels, wherein the plurality of vacuum insulated panels comprises a bottom vacuum insulated panel and four side vacuum insulated panels, and wherein each of the four side vacuum insulated panels is in contact with the bottom vacuum insulated panel;

(b) a liner, the liner being removably mounted on the insulation unit, the liner being shaped to include a cavity, wherein the cavity of the liner extends into the cavity of the insulation unit, wherein the insulation unit has a top edge, and wherein the liner is shaped to cover the top edge of the insulation unit;

(c) a product box, the product box being removably disposed within the cavity of the liner; and

(d) a plurality of ~~at least one~~ temperature-control members, each of the plurality of ~~at least one~~ temperature-control members being removably disposed within the cavity of the liner, wherein each of the temperature-control members comprises a flexible mat having a plurality of discrete sealed pouches, each of the plurality of discrete sealed pouches containing a quantity of phase-change material, the flexible mat being sufficiently flexible to be bent by at least 90 degrees, with each surface of the product box facing at least one of the temperature-control members.

~~2. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insulation unit comprises a plurality of vacuum insulated panels.~~

~~3. The shipping system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the plurality of vacuum insulated panels comprises a bottom vacuum insulated panel and four side vacuum insulated panels, the four side vacuum insulated panels being positioned on top of the bottom vacuum insulated panel.~~

~~4. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insulation unit has a top edge and wherein the liner is shaped to cover the top edge of the insulation unit.~~

~~5~~2. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 ~~wherein the insulation unit has a top edge and~~ wherein the liner is further shaped to include a bottom wall, a plurality of side walls, and a flange, the flange covering all of the top edge of the insulation unit.

~~6~~3. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 2 wherein the liner is further shaped to include an outer extension extending downwardly from the flange.

~~7~~4. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 2 wherein the liner is a one-piece construction made of a rigid material.

~~8~~5. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 2 wherein the liner comprises a thermoformed member.

~~9~~6. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 2 wherein the liner comprises corrugated cardboard.

~~10~~7. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 2 wherein the liner comprises a polymer-coated corrugated cardboard.

~~11~~8. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 2 wherein the liner comprises a corrugated cardboard spray-coated with a polymer coating.

~~12. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the liner comprises at least one of polyester paper, expanded polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, and plastic corrugate panels.~~

~~13~~9. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 2 wherein the liner is a multi-piece construction comprising a corrugated plastic member defining one or more of the side walls and a thermoformed plastic member defining the flange.

~~14~~10. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 2 wherein the liner is impermeable to liquid.

~~15~~11. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 2 wherein the liner is made of a material that may be cleaned with a cleaning solvent.

~~16~~12. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 2 wherein the side walls of the liner comprise an upper portion, a lower portion, and an intermediate portion, wherein the lower portion is spaced inwardly relative to the upper portion, and wherein the intermediate portion forms a shelf between the upper portion and the lower portion.

~~17~~13. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 2 wherein the cavity of the liner comprises an upper portion and a lower portion and wherein the upper portion has a greater footprint than does the lower portion.

~~18~~14. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~17~~ 13 wherein one of the ~~at least one temperature-control member comprises a~~ plurality of temperature-control members~~, with one of the plurality of temperature-control members having~~ has at least a portion snugly disposed within the lower portion of the cavity of the liner.

15. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the liner comprises at least one of polyester paper, expanded polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, and plastic corrugate panels.

~~19~~16. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ~~at least one temperature-control member comprises a~~ plurality of temperature-control members~~, the plurality of temperature-control members being~~ is positioned snugly on all sides of the product box.

~~20~~17. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~19~~ 16 ~~wherein each of the plurality of temperature-control members comprises at least one pouch and~~ wherein a layer of exactly one pouch is positioned on all sides of the product box.

~~21~~18. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~19~~ 16 ~~wherein each of the plurality of temperature-control members comprises at least one pouch and~~ wherein a layer of more than one pouch is positioned on at least one side of the product box.

~~22~~19. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~19~~ 16 ~~wherein each of the plurality of temperature-control members comprises at least one pouch and~~ wherein a layer of more than one pouch is positioned on at least one side of the product box and a layer of exactly one pouch is positioned on at least one side of the product box.

~~23~~20. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 ~~wherein the at least one temperature-control member comprises a plurality of temperature-control members, wherein each of the temperature-control members comprises a phase-change material, and~~ wherein the phase-change material of all the temperature-control members is identical.

~~24~~21. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 ~~wherein the at least one temperature-control member comprises a plurality of temperature-control members, wherein each of the temperature-control members comprises a phase-change material, and~~ wherein some of the phase-change materials of the temperature-control members are different.

~~25~~22. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 ~~wherein the at least one temperature-control member comprises a plurality of temperature-control members, wherein each of the temperature-control members comprises a plurality of pouches,~~ wherein at least one ~~each~~ pouch of at least one temperature-control member ~~contains a phase-change material, and wherein at least one pouch~~ contains a different phase-change material~~s~~ than another pouch of another temperature-control member.

~~26~~23. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ~~at least one~~plurality of temperature-control member~~s~~ comprises at least one inner temperature-control member

and at least one outer temperature-control member, both the at least one inner temperature-control member and the at least one outer temperature-control member being positioned in the cavity of the liner, with the at least one inner temperature-control member being more proximal to the product box and with the at least one outer temperature-control member being more distal to the product box.

~~27~~24. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 23 wherein the at least one inner temperature-control member comprises a first type of phase-change material and wherein the at least one outer temperature-control member comprises a second type of phase-change material, the first type of phase-change material and the second type of phase-change material being different.

~~28~~25. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~27~~ 24 wherein the at least one inner temperature-control member is at a first temperature at pack-out and the at least one outer temperature-control member is at a second temperature at pack-out and wherein the first temperature and the second temperature are ~~preconditioned at~~ the same temperature.

~~29~~26. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~27~~ 24 wherein the at least one inner temperature-control member is at a first temperature at pack-out and the at least one outer temperature-control member is at a second temperature at pack-out and wherein the first temperature and the second temperature are ~~preconditioned at~~ different temperatures.

~~30~~27. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 23 wherein the at least one inner temperature-control member and the at least one outer temperature-control member comprise an identical phase-change material.

~~31~~28. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~30~~ 27 wherein the at least one inner temperature-control member is a first temperature at pack-out and the at least one outer temperature-control member is a second temperature at pack-out and wherein the first temperature and the second temperature are ~~preconditioned at~~ different temperatures.

~~32~~29. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~30~~ 27 wherein the at least one inner temperature-control member is at a first temperature at pack-out and the at least one outer temperature-control member is at a second temperature at pack-out and wherein the first temperature and the second temperature are ~~preconditioned at~~ the same temperature.

~~33~~30. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 23 wherein at least one of the at least one inner temperature-control member and at least one of the at least one outer temperature-control member are mechanically coupled to one another.

31. The shipping system as claimed in claim 23 wherein each of the inner temperature-control members and each of the outer temperature-control members contains a phase-change material having a phase-change temperature of +17 °C.

32. The shipping system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the inner temperature-control members have a temperature of +20 °C. at pack-out and wherein the outer temperature-control members have a temperature of +5° C. at pack-out.

33. The shipping system as claimed in claim 23 wherein at least some of the temperature-control members contain a phase-change material having a phase-change temperature of +17 °C.

34. The shipping system as claimed in claim 23 wherein the inner temperature-control members have a phase-change temperature of +17° C. or the outer temperature-control members have a phase-change temperature of +17° C.

35. The shipping system as claimed in claim 23 wherein the inner temperature-control members have a phase-change temperature of +17° C. and the outer temperature-control members have a phase-change temperature of +24° C. or the inner temperature-control members have a phase-change temperature of +24° C. and the outer temperature-control members have a phase-change temperature of +17° C.

36. The shipping system as claimed in claim 35 wherein the inner and outer temperature-control members have a temperature of +20° C. at pack-out.

~~34~~37. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least some of the pouches of one of the temperature-control members comprises a first type of phase-change material and at least some of the pouches of the same temperature-control member comprise ~~the at least one temperature-control member comprises a first temperature-control member, the first temperature-control member comprising a plurality of pouches, at least some of the pouches of the first temperature-control member comprising a first type of phase-change material and at least some of the pouches of the first temperature-control member comprising~~ a second type of phase-change material, the first and second types of phase-change material being different.

~~35~~38. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a lid, the lid being removably mounted over the insulation unit for closing the cavity of the insulation unit.

~~36~~39. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~35~~ 38 wherein the lid comprises a vacuum insulated panel.

~~37~~40. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an outer box, wherein the insulation unit, the liner, the product box and the at least one temperature-control member are removably mounted within the outer box.

~~38~~41. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~37~~ 40 wherein the outer box comprises a top closure flap and wherein the shipping system further comprises an insulated lid coupled to the top closure flap so that closure of the top closure flap positions the insulated lid over the cavity of the insulation unit.

~~39~~42. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~38~~ 41 wherein the insulated lid is removably mounted on the top closure flap.

~~40~~43. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~38~~ 41 further comprising a cover, the cover mounted on the insulated lid.

~~41~~44. The shipping system as claimed in claim ~~40~~ 43 wherein the insulated lid is removably mounted on the top closure flap and wherein the cover is removably mounted on the insulated lid.

~~42. The shipping system as claimed in claim 37 further comprising an environmental data logger for measuring and storing at least one environmental parameter, the environmental data logger being disposed in the outer box outside of the insulation unit.~~

~~43. The shipping system as claimed in claim 42 wherein the environmental data logger measures and stores ambient temperature data.~~

~~44. The shipping system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a temperature indicator, the temperature indicator being positioned in contact with the product box and being configured to provide a real time indication of whether or not the product box is within a desired temperature range.~~

~~45. A kit for assembling a shipping system suitable for use in transporting and/or storing temperature sensitive materials, the kit comprising:~~

~~(a) an insulation unit, the insulation unit shaped to include a cavity bounded by a bottom wall, four side walls, and an open top;~~

~~(b) a liner, the liner being removably mounted on the insulation unit, the liner being shaped to include a cavity, wherein the cavity of the liner extends into the cavity of the insulation unit;~~

~~(c) a product box, the product box being removably disposed within the cavity of the liner, the product box being designed to hold a payload;~~

~~(d) an insulated lid, the insulated lid covering the cavity of the insulation unit; and~~

(e) a plurality of alternative sets of temperature-control members, each alternative set of temperature-control members being removably disposed within the cavity of the liner and being designed to maintain the payload within a different temperature range.

46. A kit for assembling at least one shipping system suitable for use in transporting and/or storing temperature-sensitive materials, the kit comprising:

(a) a first shipper, the first shipper comprising

(i) a first insulation unit, the first insulation unit shaped to include a cavity bounded by a bottom wall, a plurality of side walls, and an open top, the plurality of side walls collectively defining a top edge,

(ii) a first insulated lid, the first insulated lid removably mountable over the first insulation unit to close the cavity of the first insulation unit,

(iii) a first liner, the first liner being removably mountable on the first insulation unit, the first liner being shaped to include a cavity and a flange, wherein the cavity of the first liner is dimensioned to extend into the cavity of the first insulation unit and wherein the flange of the first liner is dimensioned to extend over the top edge of the first insulation unit,

(iv) a first product box, the first product box being removably positionable within the cavity of the first liner, the first product box being designed to hold a payload;

(b) a second shipper, the second shipper comprising

(i) a second insulation unit, the second insulation unit shaped to include a cavity bounded by a bottom wall, a plurality of side walls, and an open top, the plurality of side walls collectively defining a top edge,

(ii) a second insulated lid, the second insulated lid removably mountable over the second insulation unit to close the cavity of the second insulation unit,

(iii) a second liner, the second liner being removably mountable on the second insulation unit, the second liner being shaped to include a cavity and a flange, wherein the cavity of the second liner is dimensioned to extend into the cavity of the second insulation unit and wherein the flange of the second liner is dimensioned to extend over the top edge of the second insulation unit,

(iv) a second product box, the second product box being removably positionable within the cavity of the second liner, the second product box being designed to hold a payload, wherein the second product box is dimensioned to hold a differently-sized payload than the first product box; and

(c) a set of temperature control members, the set of temperature control members being dimensioned for alternative deployment in the cavity of the first liner, snugly fitting around the first product box, or the cavity of the second liner, snugly fitting around the second product box.

47. A method comprising:

(a) providing a shipping system for use in transporting and/or storing temperature-sensitive materials, the shipping system comprising:

(i) an insulation unit, the insulation unit shaped to include a cavity bounded by a bottom wall, four side walls, and an open top;

(ii) a liner, the liner being removably mounted on the insulation unit, the liner being shaped to include a cavity, wherein the cavity of the liner extends into the cavity of the insulation unit;

(iii) a product box, the product box being removably disposed within the cavity of the liner; and

(iv) at least one temperature-control member, the at least one temperature-control member being removably disposed within the cavity of the liner;

(b) using the shipping system to transport a first payload;

(c) then, cleaning or replacing the liner; and

(d) then, using the shipping system to transport a second payload.

48. A shipping system for use in transporting and/or storing temperature-sensitive materials, the shipping system comprising:

(a) an insulation unit, the insulation unit shaped to include a cavity bounded by a bottom wall, four side walls, and an open top, the insulation unit comprising an assembly of vacuum insulated panels encapsulated within a spray-coating of a polyurea;

(b) a product box, the product box being removably disposed within the cavity of the insulation unit; and

(c) at least one temperature-control member, the at least one temperature-control member being removably disposed within the cavity of the insulation unit.

49. A shipping system for use in transporting and/or storing temperature-sensitive materials, the shipping system comprising:

(a) an insulation unit, the insulation unit shaped to include a cavity bounded by a bottom wall, four side walls, and an open top, the insulation unit consisting of an assembly of vacuum insulated panels held together with a spray-coating of a polyurea;

(b) a product box, the product box being removably disposed within the cavity of the insulation unit; and

(c) at least one temperature-control member, the at least one temperature-control member being removably disposed within the cavity of the insulation unit.