

# H.Gautzsch Wholesale Austria Ltd.

## E-COMMERCE: Lightning-fast logistics for construction sites

Ordered online by the evening, delivered to the construction site in time for the start of work - and in large parts of Austria: this is the convenient logistics concept of H. Gautzsch Großhandel Österreich GmbH

In addition to a comprehensive range of goods, the electrical wholesaler also offers its customers delivery of all products to the construction site. This means that tradesmen can save themselves the morning shopping before construction begins and can start directly with the electrical installation. With the combination of online sales and direct delivery, the company has been successful in neighboring Bavaria for more than ten years. Now it is launching its service in Austria as well.

In order to be able to offer a flexible service, the online retailer with an assortment of over 25,000 articles in Himberg near Vienna relies on an automated warehouse with two-stage picking. At the heart of the logistics facility is AutoStore, an ultra-compact small parts warehouse that takes up only about a third of the space of comparable facilities. Inside, around 18,000 603x403x310 millimeter bins are stacked on 16 levels within an aluminum framework known as a grid. They are moved by eight battery-powered robots that operate independently of each other under electronic control. For goods receiving and order picking, the system is equipped with four so-called ports, each of which can be used flexibly for the required task. They are designed with two different speed levels. In this configuration, the system manages 250 container tenders per hour during order picking, which H. Gautzsch uses in two-shift operation. Since AutoStore allows very fast order processing, electricians can still order missing material for the following day even after the day has ended on the construction site. Last orders can still be processed up to 30 minutes before the end of the shift. "The system implemented by AM-Automation offers us the greatest possible

reliability and extremely flexible expansion options," says a pleased Helmut Lindinger, Managing Director of H. Gautzsch Großhandel Österreich GmbH.

Tips for plant planning

Four questions for automation expert Markus Grabner (AM-Automation)

**What are the most important key points when designing an automated small parts warehouse?**

The size, volumes and weights of the items must match the dimensions of the bins - that is the most important point.

**What other factor is critical in the design process?**

The choice of storage technology depends largely on the space available. Compact systems such as an AutoStore can accommodate significantly more items in the same space.

**What other differences are there between the various system technologies?**

The differences are particularly large in the area of fail-safety. Some systems come to a complete or partial standstill due to damaged components. In contrast, decentrally operated warehouses such as an AutoStore with its autonomous robots lose speed at worst. They can be maintained or expanded during operation. Other types of systems, on the other hand, sometimes have to stand still for weeks until the work is completed.

**What about the energy requirements of the systems?**

Only a few automated warehouses are resource-efficient. Electricity consumption varies considerably. An AutoStore, on the other hand, is extremely energy-efficient and thus offers an environmentally friendly and economical solution: Ten transport robots have roughly only the power consumption of a single vacuum cleaner.