

Herxheim/Offenau, December 2020

AM Logistic Solutions builds fully automated warehouse for heo

Sustainable facility for dynamic growth

As general contractor for the globally active merchandising wholesaler heo, AM Logistic Solutions is realizing a fully automated shipping warehouse by May 2021. The heart of the sustainably planned facility with a large growth reserve will be an automated small parts warehouse AutoStore.

At its headquarters in Herxheim, Rhineland-Palatinate, heo is investing a low double-digit million euro amount in the construction of a logistics center as the first construction phase of its new campus site. With this facility, the wholesaler is pursuing its goal of providing fast and efficient service to its customers worldwide. In addition to highly efficient processes, sustainability and the best possible working conditions for all heo employees were central to the planning of the logistics center. Among other things, the new building complex is equipped with underfloor heating throughout, and employees at all workplaces have visual contact with the environment, which is landscaped with extensive green areas. In addition, the plant technology is designed to support employees wherever they have to lift or pull items by means of height compensation or automatic conveyance. With ergonomically equipped workplaces, heo aims to make an important contribution to the long-term health and performance of its employees. In addition, the risk of accidents is significantly reduced by reducing physical material movements with industrial trucks and lift trucks. With these measures, heo is following the philosophy that a pleasant working atmosphere and satisfied employee headquarters are success factors for

good customer service and thus long-term customer loyalty.

Fully automated small parts warehouse improves picking performance

This orientation is made possible by the high efficiency of the automated small parts warehouse, which will replace several decentralized locations. Covering an area of around 15,000 square meters, it offers 5,500 pallet spaces and space for a total of 20,000 items. A large proportion of these are AutoStore-ready small parts, which will be stored in around 100,000 bins in the future. For order picking, the system is designed for a throughput of 400 bins per hour with 68 robots. However, expansion options have been prepared from day one.

AM Logistic Solutions acts as plant integrator

The largely automated warehouse is being built by the general contractor AM Logistic Solutions, which prevailed in a Germany-wide tender. In addition to the economic key points of the offer, heo was particularly convinced by the eye-to-eye approach and the corporate philosophy of the system provider. In designing the warehouse and selecting the system builder, heo was supported by the intralogistics consultants TKS from Esslingen.

"As an integrator, we not only supply the automatic small parts warehouse, but also the complete software with warehouse management system (WMS), material flow system (MFR) and programmable logic controller (SpS), in addition to an additional shuttle system with 16 rack levels and

the entire conveyor technology," explains AM sales manager Saverio Carella. Eight carousel ports are provided for goods receiving. In order picking, the bins are provided by twelve conveyor ports. In addition, there will be three more workstations for large-volume goods in the future. In the incoming goods area, a disposal conveyor to a carton press will also be connected. In this configuration, the new heo site enables logistics processes that also allow entry into online B2C business. At the same time, this involves a level of complexity that heo logistics manager Michael Nauerth believes would be difficult for external service providers to handle: "For us, managing logistics ourselves also means keeping customer service completely in our own hands."

