

SSI SCHÄFER update

Company magazine of the SSI SCHAEFER-Group



≡ Galexis

Toptopic



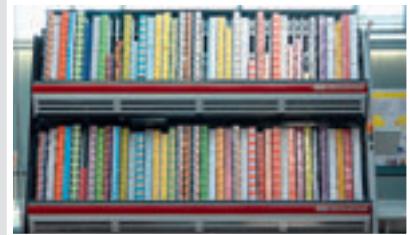
Galexis sets new standards

Bestpractice



Lufthansa spare parts
in 30 minutes

Innovative products



Innovation: S-Pemat ECO



Dear reader,

In the last update we were pleased to announce the gratifying growth of our group with the addition of Salomon Automation. I am extremely pleased at this ongoing integration as it means SSI Schaefer is complementing its wide range with a power and flexible warehouse management software package.

In the SSI Schaefer Group, we are now in a position to supply our customers with everything from warehouse technology to automation and software, all from one source. Our customer Galexis, who began operating the most modern pharmaceutical logistics centre in Switzerland in mid-2008, is also profiting from this benefit. With our solutions, the pharmaceuticals wholesaler has been able to set new milestones. These and other case studies, such as the "Order Fulfilment System" concept, are the key topics in this update.

With that in mind, I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

Rainer Buchmann
General Manager, SSI SCHAEFER, Graz, Austria

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Up to 70 % automation

One of the most modern pharmaceutical logistics centres has been in operation since mid-2008; the distribution centre for Galexis AG in Niederbipp, Switzerland. With the support of SSI Schaefer, Graz, the leading pharmaceuticals wholesaler has succeeded in setting a new standard with this sector-specific solution.

Instead of undertaking a costly renovation of their warehouses in Berne-Schönbühl and Zurich-Schlieren, Galexis AG instead decided to implement a new, highly modern solution.

With the objective of achieving considerable increases in efficiency and quality, more cost-effective workflows and the highest possible safety standards, SSI Schaefer, Graz, carried out the planning and implementation of this project for its long-standing customer.

The new distribution centre is divided into a pallet zone without permanent conveyor technology and a zone with container conveyor technology. The latter zone is used to process 99 % of order lines. Inward warehousing for over 70 % of the incoming goods lines, as well as internal forwarding to the picking stations, is all carried out automatically. This means that the Niederbipp warehouse has an automation level of up to 70 % and a throughput of up to 2800 containers per hour.

This is facilitated not least by the use of automated picking systems with picking rates of up to 1600 containers per hour and automated cover attachment stations. The 100 % warehouse management system – offering complete batch tracking facilities – takes full account of the safety requirements. Customisation of the SSI Schaefer goods management system rounded off the solution supplied.



Photos of Galexis: Jean-Jacques Ruchti

An SSI Schaefer Group project

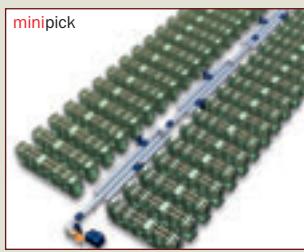
Under the overall coordination of SSI Schaefer, Graz (A) – responsible for planning, implementation, conveyor and picking technologies as well as all the IT – the Swiss division of the company group and the German headquarters also contributed to the project. SSI Schaefer, Neunkirch (CH) supplied all the warehouse equipment, and SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen (D) provided the containers.

Increased productivity thanks to order fulfilment systems (OFS)

In the shape of the Order Fulfilment System SSI Schaefer, Graz, has developed a concept to match individual customer requirements. The system allows intralogistics specialists to meet the automation requirements of their customers in the shortest possible timespan.

Based on a variety of systems implemented worldwide, four basic systems with fully automated, powerful OFS have

been developed from a relatively simple concept. The modular expansion options of mini-pick, midi-pick, mega-pick and giga-pick provide the ideal entry point for every picking requirement. Alongside productivity increases of up to 100%, a competitive edge and new customer acquisitions, this achieves optimised stock warehousing and flexibility.



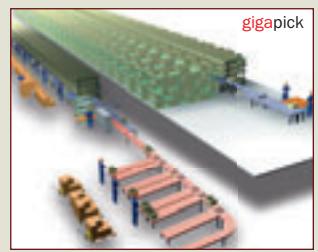
The basic system includes shelf storage locations for bin storage and a central conveyor system with picking stations. It is controlled using a warehouse management system (WMS) via a simple offline interface.



In this more advanced solution, the control software also takes into account the ABC profiles of the products picked from pallets, live storage systems and modular shelving.



The system is controlled by the software modules developed by SSI Schaefer. It features an online host interface and a supervisor cockpit for simple control of processes in the warehouse.



This fully automated system includes the option for product picking on a platform to save valuable space on the ground floor.

“Thanks to the four modular expansion options, the right entry point is available for any picking requirements”

Why order fulfilment systems?

SSI Schaefer: Our customers are concerned with issues such as: What level of flexibility does my warehouse need in these uncertain times? How do I respond to rising wage costs? How do I reduce stock levels whilst maintaining a high quality of delivery? Together with customers, we develop concepts to implement the optimum level of automation for them. With OFS we are able to work alongside our customers right from the off, and to match their needs in with proven technologies and solutions at any stage of expansion with rapid implementation.

Which markets are utilising this concept?

SSI Schaefer: Whether it is cosmetics, electronic parts, pharmaceuticals or other small goods that are being picked, whether shipments are being compiled by specialist dealers, internet providers or centralised shipping warehouses, all workflows and the technology used are similar at a certain level of abstraction. With OFS we achieve all of these things – right from the start.

Is OFS with 4 standard layouts an over-simplification?

SSI Schaefer: OFS is not intended as a “one-size-fits-all” warehouse; it represents more of an orientation point. This makes it easier for the customer and SSI Schaefer to find the right solution. The building shape and upright patterns

will of course still mean that customisation of the final layout will still be required, but this does not significantly impact the process or the price. This is precisely why we are unbeatably fast and cost-effective using the OF systems.

Interview on the topic of OFS

Is it really so much faster and cheaper to achieve the results?

SSI Schaefer: Absolutely: thanks to our wide range of products, we supply the modular OF systems complete from internal production and can implement every level of automation in the shortest possible time – whether small conveyors, pick-by-light systems, software solutions for manual systems or automation on a larger scale. The four modular expansion options of mini-pick, midi-pick, mega-pick and giga-pick offer the ideal entry point for every picking requirement.

How does it all work in practice?

SSI Schaefer: We have already implemented numerous modular OF systems in many varied designs. With one customer in the textile industry, for example, we developed a solution which achieved a 100% increase in productivity during operation, just six months after the order was placed. This was achieved using conveyor technology, carton assembly machines, ergonomic workstations and the principle of “goods to picker”.



Well-equipped for the future

With new, fully automated high bay racking set up as a silo racking system, SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen, is making a considerable contribution to optimising the material flow and to expanding warehouse capacities at fischerwerke, the world's market leader in dowel technology.

In addition to fixing systems, fischerwerke, based in Waldachtal, Germany, also specialises in automotive systems and construction toys (fischertechnik). The commissioning of the new 4-aisle

system with around 14,300 pallet storage spaces was highly anticipated by the management at the company as the old warehouse, operated via high rise stacker, had already hit its limits some years prior. Despite the tight schedule, the planned deadlines were met with precision.

Eckhard Hagen, Head of Logistics, Germany at fischerwerke, has praised the outstanding, solution-oriented project work with SSI Schaefer and is now looking to the future with confidence.

Thanks to the powerful high bay racking system, capacity increases have been achieved alongside article availability and excellent delivery quality.





Spare parts in 30 minutes

Lufthansa Technik Logistik (LTL) provides future-oriented logistics solutions for customers in the aerospace industry. The commissioning of the new logistics centre in Frankfurt-South in February 2008 has meant that LTL has increased its presence at Frankfurt airport.

Together with the general contractor Sitlog, SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen, equipped the new warehouse with a 3-aisle automated small parts system as well as a manually operated warehouse – on schedule and in less than one year!

The automated small parts system accommodates 13,000 SSI Schaefer containers that house up to 70,000 batches using variable insert boxes.

The warehouse building covers an area of 7800 m² and supplies Frankfurt airport south with spare parts, where the recently opened Lufthansa Technik A 380 maintenance hall is located.

"The warehouse equipment permits the delivery of spare parts in Frankfurt in just 30 minutes", explains Wolfgang Sauer, Project Manager at LTL.

With the capacity of the new warehouse and the option to expand the automated small parts system with two further aisles, LTL is ideally equipped for the future.





Greater throughput with interlinked workstation systems

A re-organisation of incoming goods checks at Lewa GmbH, Leonberg, has resulted in increased throughput of around 20 %. This was underpinned by an innovative system design from SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen.

The tasks required in distribution centres are complex and demanding. With all this in mind, Lewa GmbH – a leading provider in the fields of liquid dosing/mixing and high pressure injection – decided to re-structure the incoming goods and quality checking procedures at the Leonberg central warehouse in an integrated section with interlinked workstations.



“Our objective was to modernise the upstream processes. Incoming goods and quality checking procedures should have logically clear material flows and an up-to-date throughput for inward storage into the automated small parts system,” explains Lewa Project Manager, Heiko Ruf. The project is also to be implemented in an existing building complex. The space required here necessitates an innovative system design that facilitates efficient processes and a rapid, transparent material flow thanks to optimum space utilisation and special system components.



These objectives were achieved by combining individually modifiable workstation systems and conveyor technology elements. The key feature: Instead of the standard curves, the corners of the space were fitted with space-saving 90-degree converters.

“A winning design which provides us with a considerable degree of flexibility and which has increased the efficiency of our incoming goods and checking processes by more than 20 %”, reflects Lewa Project Manager, Heiko Ruf.



High tech for “Down Under”

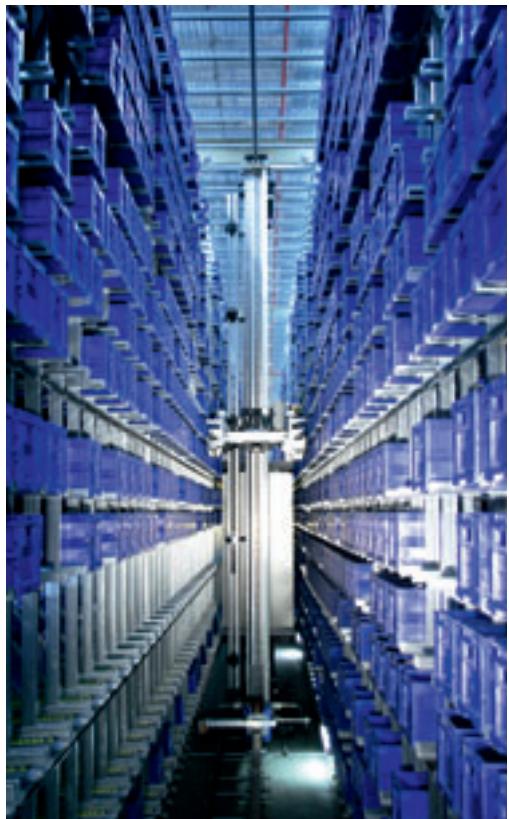
With the creation of two central national distribution centers for Coles Group Limited, one of Australia’s leading retail chains, SSI Schaefer, Giebelstadt, was able to complete a challenging project.

Fully automated storage processes as well as pick-by-light order picking from the miniload and order picking to the goods-to-person principle from the Schaefer Carousel System (SCS) make for savings of warehousing and personnel costs and increased accuracy for the stores.



Each Distribution Center is equipped with a miniload. Controlled by the SSI-warehouse management system eight storage and retrieval machines equipped with multi-purpose telescopic forks in eight aisles of the miniload make for quick storage and retrieval operations from the double-deep rack system with its 98,752 storage positions.

The Schaefer Carousel System, used for automatic picking of slow and medium moving goods is the core piece of each distribution center. With maximum storage capacity at minimum space, the SCS offers the quickest access to about half of the 8,300 different products stored in the system.



Efficient order picking for individual parts

Individual parts (container-compatible goods that cannot be handled in an automated way) represent the smallest unit shipped by a distribution centre to a customer or branch office. These articles are normally processed in different storage systems with a high degree of consolidation required for dispatch.

In contrast, the modular solutions from SSI Schaefer with their consistent approach, permit a significant increase in order picking efficiency – both for fast-moving (A) and slow-moving goods (BC).

With standardised system components that can be combined in a modular way – consisting of the Schaefer Carousel System (SCS), automated small parts system, as well as Schaefer Quad System (SQS) – SSI Schaefer offers effective, scalable individual part order picking. This means that solutions can be custom configured for retail, refrigerated goods logistics, publishing house shipments as well as spare parts logistics.

The modular system is scalable and can be expanded to meet every need



Schaefer Carousel System SCS

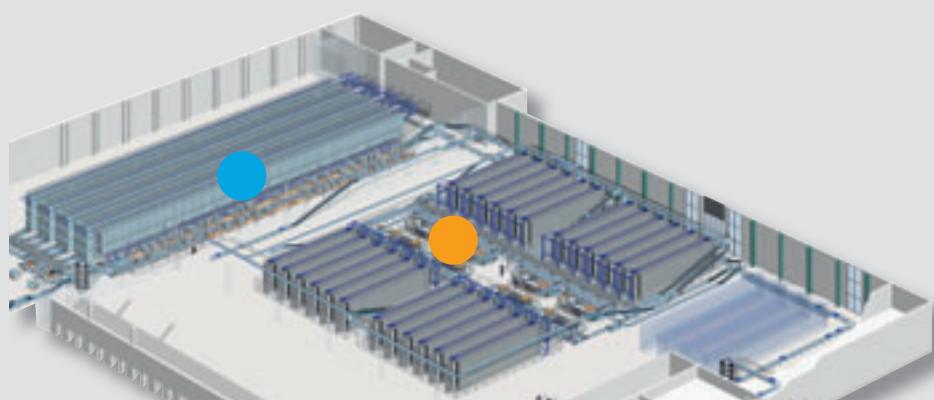
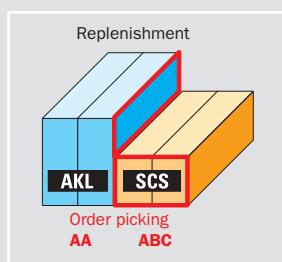


Automated small parts warehouse



Schaefer Quad System SQS

Example from the publishing sector:



For a fast, efficient order assembly system, arvato media GmbH, Gütersloh, Germany, is relying on a system solution from SSI Schaefer. An automated small parts warehouse with 24,000 container storage spaces and 24 Schaefer

Carousel Systems provide four times the throughput on half the space, an increase in picking output to over 1000 units/hour and a threefold increase in order picking speed per employee.

Greater storage capacity for French refrigerated warehouse



EFA, Loudeac, France, specialises in the storage of refrigerated vegetables. The French company is one of Brittany's largest firms with a capacity of 37,000 m³ and 20,000 pallets.

Following an intensive analysis to optimise space utilisation and the storage volume efficiency levels, EFA decided in 2008 to replace the existing pallet racking with a second mobile racking system from SSI Schaefer, France. The new racking system permits an increase in storage capacity of up to 40% and has over 1200 pallet storage locations in total.

The system runs without a hitch at optimum capacity and an ideal productivity level, even at a high load level. The company is already considering a further project with SSI Schaefer.

Worldwide goods flows for globalised markets are a key feature of the food industry. Is SSI Schaefer getting involved in this ongoing trend?

SSI Schaefer: This sector is a significant source of sales for SSI Schaefer, primarily in area of refrigerated goods. Developing integrated logistics solutions for this sector is one of our core tasks.

“Around 80 % of all refrigerated warehouses are equipped with mobile racking”

What do these solutions consist of?

SSI Schaefer: SSI Schaefer has a complete product range for all warehouse requirements. We also cover all areas of in-house logistics.

The refrigerated sector has very specific requirements; what solutions does SSI Schaefer have to offer for this sector?

SSI Schaefer: We track developments/trends in the sector at an early stage, and respond accordingly. This has also resulted in the development of the automated, unmanned mobile racking system solution by SSI Schaefer. A solution that reduces staff requirements alongside the optimum quantity of pallet storage locations.

Which warehouse solution is used primarily in the refrigerated goods sector?

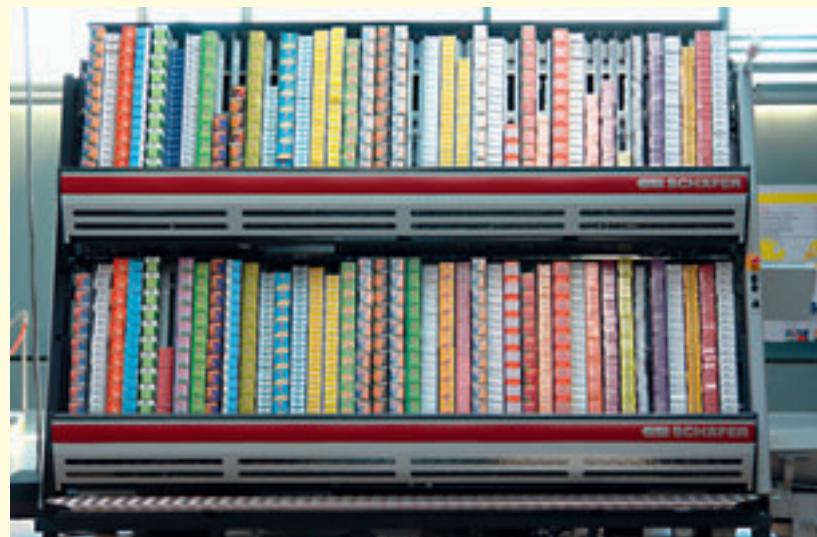
SSI Schaefer: Without question the mobile racking system; around 80% of all refrigerated warehouses are equipped

with this system. The system meets the user's needs as the larger warehouse quantities and the reduced building volume represent an efficient antidote to the high energy requirements for refrigeration.

What makes Schaefer different from its competitors?

SSI Schaefer: We run our business with the objective of providing customer-oriented and innovative logistics solutions with products of a consistent and sustainable quality level for the often challenging warehouse environment.



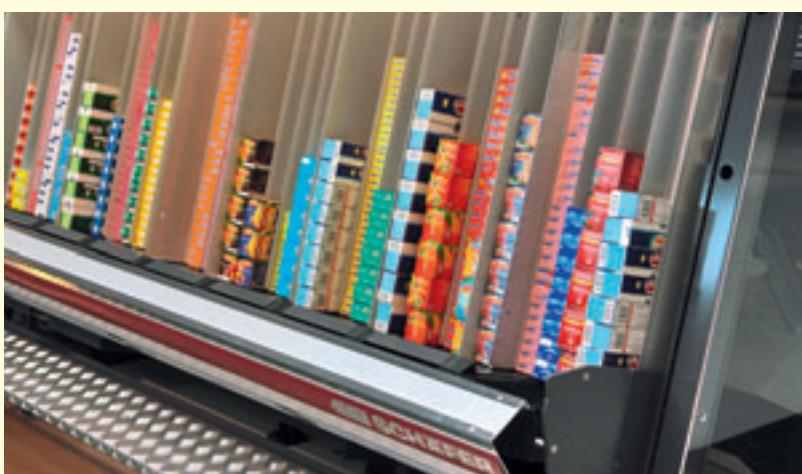


Innovation: Automatic order picking with S-Pemat ECO

SSI Schaefer, Graz, made its first appearance at LogiMAT 2009 with the newly developed order picking system S-Pemat ECO. This new automated order picking system executes complex order assembly operations in a fully automated way, reliably and in the shortest possible time. At the same time, the investment costs are also particularly low.

The basis for this significant new development was the S-Pemat order picking system from SSI Schaefer, Graz, which has been proven in practice over 1000 times. The new S-Pemat ECO can be used efficiently in the moderate-turnover and slow-moving sectors thanks to its design (between 1 and 350 items/articles/day) and thus represents the ideal complement to the proven S-Pemat which offers an output range of 50-300 units/articles/day.

The S-Pemat ECO guarantees maximum productivity as well as optimum material flow in the warehouse and achieves rapid order processing with maximum quality. The new automated order picking system combines high performance with perfect ergonomics. The S-Pemat ECO can be replenished during operation without interrupting the picking process.



Controlled and simple access to high-value articles is becoming increasingly important in many sectors of industrial production.

To meet the needs of the marketplace, SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen, in collaboration with Consyagma, has designed electronically secured drawer systems which can meet these needs simply using the latest technology.



CONLOC Electronically protected drawer systems

The CONLOC drawer system allows drawers, which are individually locked electronically, to be opened and closed using customisable identity profiles. This represents the simplest way to store articles of all kinds and to protect them against unauthorised access.

The closing and opening operations are carried out depending on an identify profile saved on no-contact identity cards. The employee holds the identity card in front of the sensor on the drawer cabinet, and the drawers authorised for that employee will be opened accordingly.

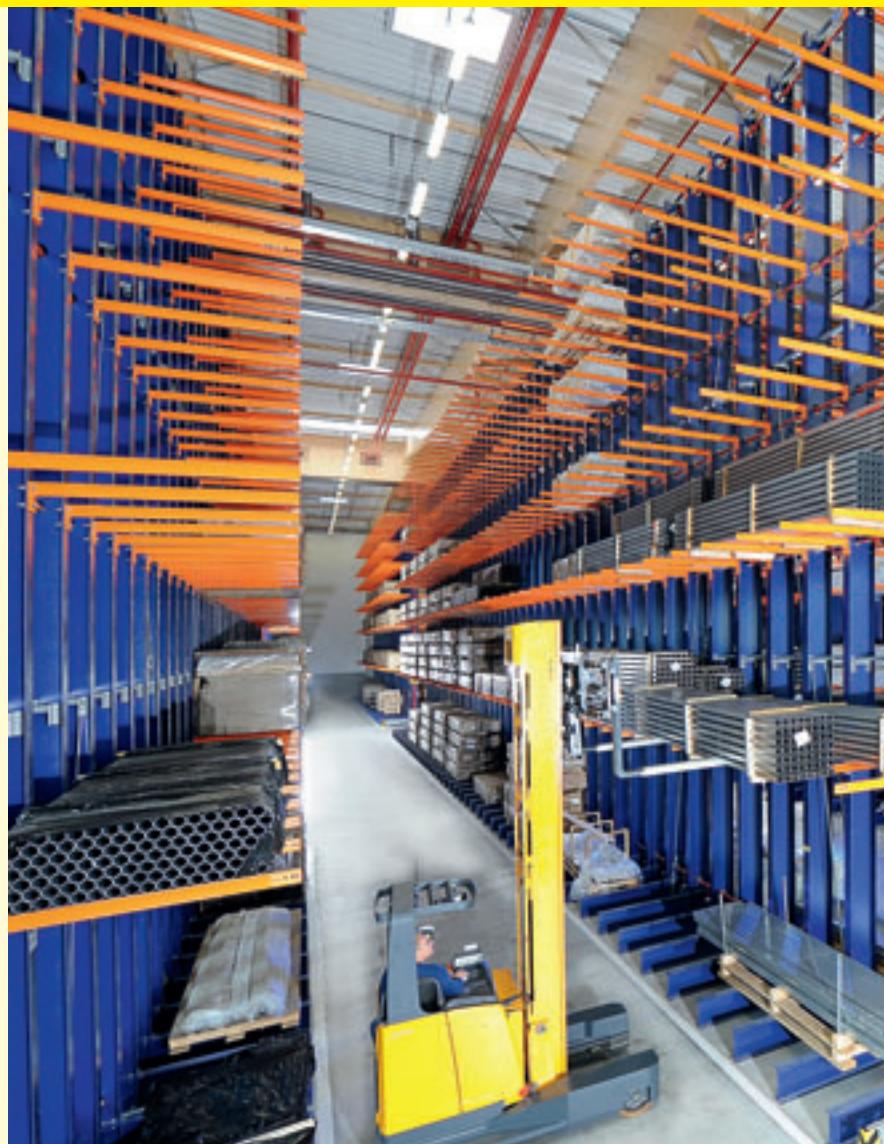
Warehouse technology

Efficient and flexible without automation

In equipping the new logistics centre for Big Dutchman, SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen has proved that efficient logistics processes can also be implemented without large-scale automated solutions.

Big Dutchman an international market leader in designing and implementing feeding systems and stall equipment.

The objectives for the new logistics centre are to pool multiple warehouse locations, create capacities for growth and to establish optimised logistics processes.



Latest warehouse technology for vehicle parts

The new 132,000 m² distribution centre – which Caterpillar Logistics operates under contract to Quinton Hazell (QH) Automotive – has been running smoothly now for over 12 months. The distribution centre in Leicestershire was equipped with the latest warehouse technology by SSI Schaefer, England.

Quinton Hazell produces high quality, brand-oriented spare vehicle parts for well-known vehicle manufacturers. The Hinckley plant is divided into two different sections, where over 25,000 parts can be stored.

The first section houses a 10 m high PR 600 pallet racking system with over 10,000 pallet storage spaces. The second section consists of a multi-storey R 3000 modular shelving system and is used for storing small parts. This provides a storage capacity of more than 2000 m³ on a basic area of just 880 m².





To accommodate the various articles, the logistics centre is divided into five sections: a cantilever racking system, a wide-aisle warehouse, a narrow-aisle warehouse, a small parts warehouse with up to 15,650 container positions and drive-in racking. 8500 articles are now stored there for retrieval.



Bernd Görtler (left), Senior Manager Logistics Services at Big Dutchman with Ralph Schließer, Area Sales Manager, Bremen, at SSI Schaefer

New capacities for Ferrari spare parts



To expand its stock of vehicle parts, Superformance – spare parts specialist for Ferrari and other high-performance Italian cars – has increased its warehouse capacities.

SSI Schaefer, England, expanded the warehouse with a versatile R 3000 racking system. The new racking system houses the current parts stock, expands the storage capacity of the company by 54 % in m² and by 99 % in m³ and offers new expansion options for future growth.

"The warehouse expansion in the new halls offers around 6 times the parts storage space than was possible for us in the old halls. With SSI Schaefer we will be able in the future to expand our spare parts range and to offer customers better service", explains Colin Sowter, Managing Director at Superformance.



With a flexible, two-storey modular shelving system and a storage position allocation with locator technology, SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen equipped the European central warehouse for spare parts firm Diederichs Karosserieteile.

On a basic area of around 8600 m², the R 3000 modular system on two levels offers an additional storage space of 16,000 m² that is used efficiently using the locator technology. The path-optimised storage of the articles reduces the order picking time by 30 to 50 %.

"With the modular shelving system and the locator technology from SSI Schaefer, we have a flexible system and an efficient storage strategy for a continually growing warehouse," reflects Managing Director Jan-Christian Diederichs.



More than a shelving system

Linde authorised dealer, Schrader Industriefahrzeuge, was won over by SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen for the planning and equipping of a compact warehouse incl. locator technology.

The new warehouse is approx. 250 m long. With 320 drawers, 11,750 insert boxes, around 580 shelves and more than 160 special shelves, it is designed for a capacity of 13,100 articles.

To achieve efficient, path-optimised order picking and optimum usage of the shelving area, Schrader is relying on the SSI compact warehouse principle and storage by locators.

"Despite the increased stock, we have virtually doubled our picking time from 90 to around 160 picks per day using the locator technology, the structured processes and the new warehouse equipment", confirms Warehouse Manager, Thomas Hurdelhey.



Warehouse systems for rapid connections on Eurostar

For the new Eurostar "Engineering Centre Temple Mills" in London, SSI Schaefer, England designed, supplied and installed a completely new warehouse system.

The transport company is a joint venture between British, French and Belgian railway companies. The high-speed trains from Eurostar connect London with the French and Belgian capitals in around two hours.

In addition to a PR 600 pallet racking system, the new 400 m long building now contains a R 7000 high bay storage system as well as cantilever racking and platform levels from SSI Schaefer. Whereas the small parts warehouse including platform at 8 m and 5.5 m height is divided into two sections, the R 7000 racking system withstands the field and shelf loads required by Eurostar. In the construction of the PR 600 pallet rack, special features have been incorporated for storing train parts. SSI Schaefer has therefore equipped the racking system with a field load of 25 tonnes.

Perfect service at BMW

The BMW Group Australia has been experiencing an unprecedented growth period for ten years. The considerable growth in sales increased the stock levels in the BMW warehouse in Melbourne from 9,318 vehicles in the year 1997 to 17,197 in 2007.

To continue to ensure premium customer service, BMW relies on the "Twin-Warehouse" strategy. A new National Distribution Centre (NDC) in Sydney and a separate warehouse in Melbourne should meet the increased demand for vehicle spare parts.



In Sydney, SSI Schaefer has equipped the 12,600 m² NDC with an R 3000 modular shelving system, an illuminated platform and a sprinkler system.

With the new NDC and the warehouse in Melbourne, BMW can fulfil 95% of the orders received during the day overnight.

Hungarian HGV spare parts in 24 hours

PACCAR, one of the world's largest HGV manufacturers, has appointed SSI Schaefer, Hungary as a racking supplier with equipping its new East European distribution centre in Hungary.

The objective was to set up an HGV spare parts warehouse facilitating shipments in 24 hours following receipt of order. SSI Schaefer equipped the 14,000 m² basic warehouse area with cantilever, pallet, shelving, mobile pallet racking and live storage systems. Completing the warehouse fitting was realised in one month.



Milk products on Schaefer shelving

In Thailand, Friesland Foods Foremost supplies the market with milk products.

As the range of products from the milk supplier has increased continuously, the company decided to expand its warehouse.

The project was undertaken by SSI Schaefer, Thailand.

For storing bulky parts, the intralogistics specialist equipped the milk suppliers with a channel warehouse. Raw materials in smaller quantities, on the other hand, are to be stored on conventional pallet racking. Both warehouse systems now cover 560 m² each.

The order picking and warehousing is now faster and more efficient.



For almost a hundred years, Getränke Wüllner, Bielefeld, has been supplying beverage crates to specialist markets, and the drinks and food trade. To meet the challenges of the marketplace, Wüllner has decided to introduce the warehouse management system WAMAS® from Salomon Automation, Friesach/Graz.

More power to you, with WAMAS®

The new system optimises the capacities of the storage locations and considers article-related requirements in determining the storage space required. The online stock management system ensures current and reliable stock data, guaranteeing a greater ability to deliver, automatic replenishment and an up-to-date inventory.

Trade fairs and conferences

TRANSPORT LOGISTIC Munich | 12 – 15 May

MATERIAL HANDLING Dubai | 31 May – 2 June

MOTEK Stuttgart | 21 – 24 September

FACHPACK/LOGINTERN Nuremberg | 29 Sept. – 1 Oct.

BVL KONGRESS Berlin | 21 – 23 October

SSI SCHAEFER-events

SSI AUTOMATION CONGRESS CZ-Olomouc | 20 May

SSI AUTOMATION CONGRESS Dubai | 4 June

SSI AUTOMATION CONGRESS St. Petersburg | 26 August

SSI LOGISTICA09 Graz | 16 – 18 September

SSI GETRÄNKE FORUM09 Giebelstadt | 8 October

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Award for life's work

At the LOG.LEO Awards 2008, Geoff Wheatley, Regional Director for the Middle East and Africa at SSI Schaefer, received an award in Dubai for his lifetime achievement after 40 years.



Mariam Al Afridi, Operations and Marketing Senior Manager in Dubai, presented Geoff Wheatley with the award

The “**Lifetime Achievement Award**” recognises persons who have been working for at least 20 years in the logistics or supply chain industry and who have made significant contributions to the industry. The winners were nominated and selected online on the LOG.Middle East website.