SSI SCHAEFER

Autumn 2011/19

update

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the fully automated inspector

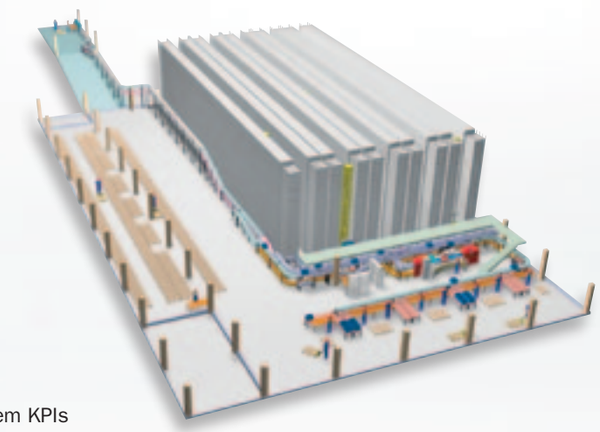
Dear readers,

2011 is slowly coming to a close and we now have the opportunity to reflect on an exceptionally successful year. Nobody could have predicted that the economy would recover quite so quickly. CEMAT 2010 clearly demonstrated this recovery in the logistics industry. Thanks to an exceptionally well-designed trade show concept, SSI Schaefer has set a new standard and demonstrated precisely how things have been going for the world market leader. In this update we are presenting – among other things – the CeMAT product highlights that are paving the way into the future.

The market however, demands yet more innovations, future-oriented concepts and customised, sector-specific solutions in a modular design leading to greater efficiency. This is what drives us forward. The year was characterised by a dynamic development – a development that again resulted in an increase in the range of products and services offered by the group. With the acquisition of the Danish company Handler A/S (Humlebæk/DK) we expanded our product range with a storage lift division and thus the range as a total intralogistics solutions provider.

On each continent there are now numerous branch offices taking good care of our customers around the globe. We hope you enjoy this latest edition and reading about how SSI Schaefer is continually adding to the world of efficiency.

Rainer Buchmann
General Manager, SSI SCHAEFER, Graz, Austria



▶ System KPIs

Stock items:	**approx. 25.000**
boxes/day:	**approx. 10.000**
Level of automation:	**90%**
Productivity:	**order lines/hour/PTT workers**

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System planning without data

In somewhat unusual circumstances, SSI Schaefer has implemented the optimum logistics concept for New Wave in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic – automation level 90%.

New Wave CZ, Czech member of the Karel Holoubek Trade Group, sells quality products in the paper goods and giftware market. The company ships orders within the shortest possible time to shopping centres, department stores, gift boutiques, toy shops, etc. in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. With the objective of increasing productivity, reducing labour costs and cutting picking times, the company placed their trust in SSI Schaefer in Graz and the Czech Republic to set up their distribution centre in Karlovy Vary.

A lack of reliable and transparent transaction data previously hampered the company in tracking and efficiently compiling and shipping stocks of stored and picked goods on time. New Wave had also been picking goods entirely manually. This posed particular challenges as SSI Schaefer was not able to access any reliable data to base the new logistics concept on. Nevertheless, the intralogistics specialist delivered a highly sophisticated solution that contributed significantly to the success of New Wave, introducing automated technologies, software solutions and the delivery of all components from one source.

The heart of the new system is a 5-aisle, automated small parts storage system with 35,000 container storage spaces. Here the Schaefer Miniload Crane (SMC) storage and retrieval system ensures efficient inward and outward goods movements. The Warehouse Management System (WMS) WAMAS controls all the processes. When a customer submits an order, the WMS processes it and starts picking the goods. In the outward movement, the SMC retrieves the load carriers and delivers them to a transfer zone. From here they travel via conveyors to the pick-to-tote workstations, where employees pick the goods according to the goods-to-man principle. Once again, a conveyor belt acts as a transport system conveying the goods to the dispatch station and preparing them for speedy dispatch.

“SSI Schaefer presented us with a concept for a fully automated warehouse using the goods-to-man principle. The solution was new to us, but proved to offer exceptionally high performance. It enabled us to increase our efficiency significantly and to optimise warehouse capacity”, reflects Mr Dusan Materna, CEO at New Wave. “The company now has an extremely advanced and high-performance logistics centre.”

Sophisticated order picking strategies

Based on an automated material flow solution, Coop in Denmark is increasing both throughput and process capability as well as capacity for future expansion.

SSI Schaefer has completed a central logistics centre for Denmark's largest retailer, Coop Danmark A/S. The intelligent, holistic concept of material flow, high-performance system components, ergonomic workstations and an optimally designed warehouse management system provide high delivery reliability and quick reaction times.

Coop Danmark A/S has more than 9,000 non-food-items in store – from TVs to video games and clothing – and they supply approximately 800 supermarkets throughout Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. The company has approximately 35,000 employees in total.

When Danish retailer Coop Danmark A/S decided to restructure and reconfigure its logistics in 2008, the plan was to consolidate seven regional warehouses into one central warehouse in Odense, Denmark, equipped with state-of-the-art order picking processes. "In view of our diverse product range, we were looking for a solution with intelligent material flow and well-defined order picking strategies", explains Coop Warehouse Manager, John Møller. The contract for the logistics concept and creation of a logistics centre from constructing to furnishing a high bay warehouse as well as installing an individually tailored warehouse management system (WMS) was awarded to the intralogistics specialists at SSI Schaefer in Giebelstadt, Germany.

Shipments from the new central warehouse in Odense began in January 2010. SSI Schaefer constructed a three-block high bay warehouse (HBW) with four aisles per block and over 36,000 storage locations for single-deep storage of pallets up to 1,000 kilograms. A total of 12 storage and retrieval machines moving at a speed of up to 250 meters per minute ensure quick storage and retrieval of more than 500 pallets per hour in the HBW.

In parallel with this project, SSI Schaefer also created the WMS for the manual warehouse. Storage positions for man-to-goods order picking of fast-moving items are available here across three shelf levels.

"Ideal utilisation of space, high flexibility, reliable order processing – overall, SSI Schaefer has designed a very efficient solution that has not only increased our throughput and process reliability, but also offers us further expansion capacities for our business areas and activities, Møller sums up.

A great leap forward

For Pistor AG, Salomon Automation acted as general contractor to achieve the largest investment in logistics in the company's history. The WAMAS® logistics software now ensures dynamic handling of goods.

Pistor, Switzerland's leading company in the bakery/patisserie/confectionary sector, is now the only independent wholesaler in this industry. Pistor's customers benefit from a comprehensive array of specialized products ranging from bakery, kitchen, café and restaurant to kiosk and store.

Due to massive growth and its desire to be the best in every sector, Pistor was driven to its performance limits. Since the timing for a major new step was right, Pistor decided to make the biggest investment in its history: the construction of a new state-of-the-art distribution centre (WUZ West) with a sky walk that leads to the existing small case warehouse. This project represented a quantum leap, which required the skills of a reliable partner – Salomon Automation.

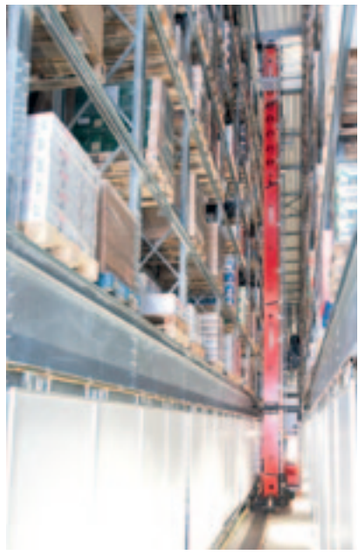
Pistor's long-term goal is to offer a full product range. Consequently, the objectives of the new distribution centre in Rothenburg, Switzerland, were to optimise picking processes and goods supply, to reduce cycle times and variable costs, to create ergonomic workstations and to ensure future expansion capacity. The complete integration of the existing small package warehouse without interrupting ongoing operations played a significant role in this project.

More than 8,000 different articles are automatically stored in the high bay warehouse according to respective requirements and dynamically prepared at the picking front, which represents the dynamic centrepiece of the system. The variety and different sizes of the Pistor articles require an extremely flexible picking system. That's why the high bay warehouse was specifically designed for pallets, small bins as well as trays. At the same time, the various special requirements of the products had to be taken into consideration whereby the goods are stored based on their sensitivity to temperature.

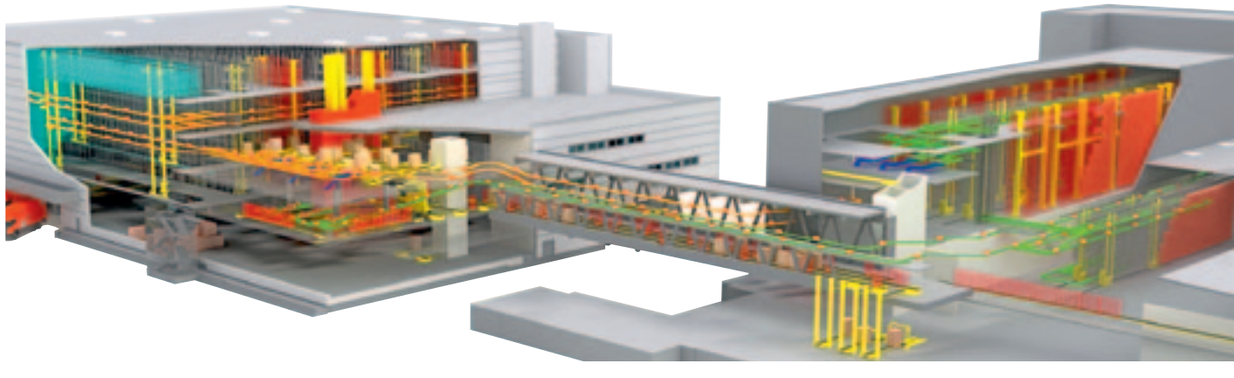
The goods are picked on roller containers according to the principle "from heavy to light" in 8 well-lit picking tunnels in the high bay warehouse. Due to exact calculations beforehand by the WAMAS warehouse management system and the coordination of the route planning for the next day, a total of 12 different customer orders can be picked simultaneously per picking vehicle. A peak performance of over 400 tons a day can be achieved using this picking process.

The articles from the opposite small case warehouse arrive simultaneously via the sky walk at the consolidation area. Once automatically wrapped, they are forwarded by the conveying system towards the shipping area.

The biggest advantage compared to the previous situation is that WAMAS organises all the various subsystems of Pistor in the high-performance facility from one single platform. Another major component is the innovative safety concept featuring a safety PLC for all systems, which was used for the very first time.



The state-of-the-art WUZ West system promotes Pistor AG's continuous growth, enables range expansion and provides a decisive competitive advantage. The mutual coorperation of these two companies allows them to look to the future, and plans for expansion are already being worked on following the official opening.



SSI Schaefer offers expertise in key IT technology

SSI Schaefer is expanding its in-house IT system expertise to include machine vision technology. Customers stand to gain from the technological benefits of industrial image processing in automation, quality checks through innovative product developments and use of fewer interfaces.

Industrial image processing is now one of the key technologies in automation. Its use in the pharmaceutical and automotive industry has become standard practice when checking safety-critical components.

SSI Schaefer has been working with machine vision technology for more than four years and has already developed numerous innovations for automated order picking, sequencing and quality control by combining expertise in this mechanical vision, machine control and logistical applications for customers, e.g. Schaefer Case Picking, the SSI Order Verifier or the Schaefer RoboPick. The company can now boast of extensive in-house know-how in all three fields; something that is unique in the industry.

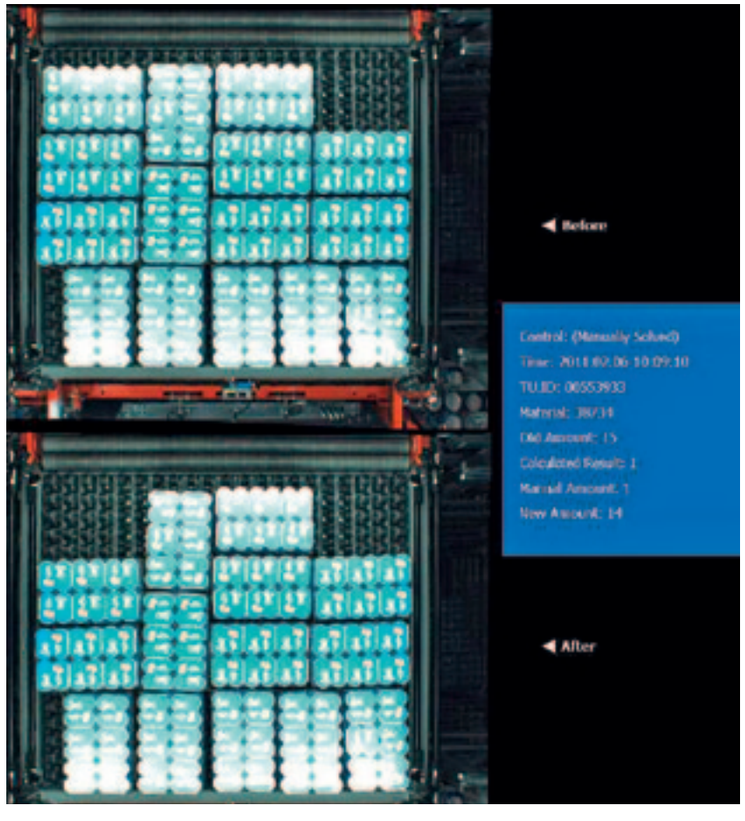
The technology can therefore potentially be used in industrial production and intralogistics for tasks ranging from fully automatic palletising and depalletising, through sequence, position and orientation checks to quality control including complete documentation and traceability. For the user, this translates into efficiently automated and monitored production processes. Quality control and order picking become an integral process, resulting in minimised error rates and greatly reduced staffing, energy and freight costs.

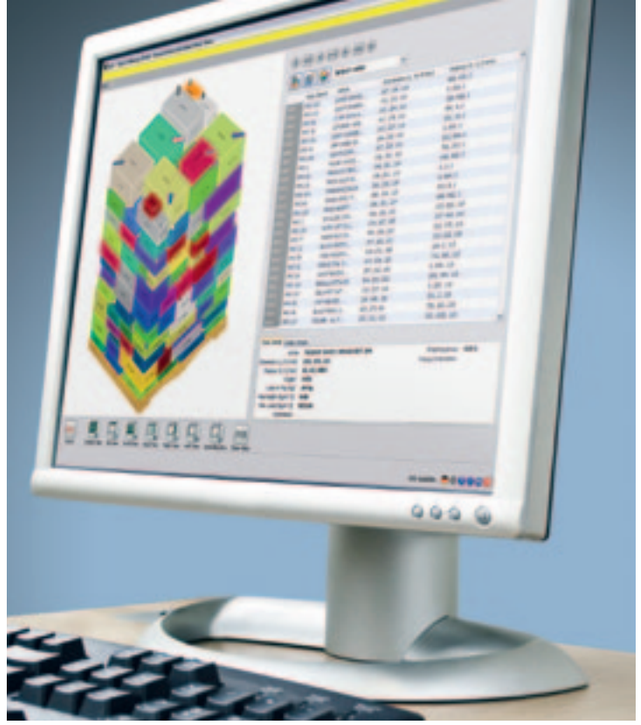
SSI Schaefer image processing technologies are designed as independent subsystems with a flexible interface architecture. This allows them to be integrated in many different ways in the intralogistics systems supplied by SSI Schaefer. Not only can the systems be smoothly integrated into existing structures, they can also be quickly and conveniently adapted to modified production processes and model changes.

> The intelligent features of machine vision technology from SSI Schaefer eliminate any lengthy teach-in phase for the products being handled.

Benefits and results

- Operation of distribution centres that pick and ship a customised mix of products using full automation
- Efficient, automated and controlled order picking and transport processes
- Integration of quality control and order picking with minimised error rates and significantly reduced personnel, energy and freight costs
- Technology advantages due to a reduction in interfaces
- Potential savings ensuring rapid amortisation
- Further new developments in system functionalities with extra added value for the customer
- Fully automated testing and documentation of picked orders – as well as a retrofit option for existing distribution systems





Palletising with Pack Pattern Generator even more efficient

With the development of its own pack pattern generator, SSI Schaefer positions itself at the forefront among automation IT specialists. The new software module "Schaefer Pack Pattern Generator (SPPG)" optimises pallet build composition from the packing density of the pallet to the application of stability criteria in fully or partly automated Case Picking Systems. The SPPG has now been successfully proven in practice in several systems.

Route optimisation, loading space utilisation and store-optimised pallet building are the options for fine-tuning in order to reduce costs and improve the service in order processing. The diverse range of items now handled by retail and wholesale distribution centres presents immense challenges for multi-product palletisation. The computer-based calculation of all theoretically possible packing combinations of a store-optimised pallet alone would even today require an enormous and impractical amount of computing time to accommodate an ever-widening variety of products.

To optimise fully automatic palletising in-line with customer-specific requirements, SSI Schaefer has developed the Schaefer Pack Pattern Generator (SPPG). As a software module for Warehouse Management Systems (WMS), this generator achieves the impossible: it calculates the optimal pallet building plan online in the shortest time and transfers the data to the WMS, which initiates the operational process. The priority of the optimisation objectives can, if necessary, be re-defined with every new order by the operator in charge.

Result: The sophisticated programming of the SPPG enables a truly heterogeneous range of products to undergo fully-automatic processing from order management through to palletising. This reduces costs. The increased stability of the pallets also leads to less damages and greater customer satisfaction. Last but not least, the software module algorithms enable optimal packing density and thus the best possible utilisation of available loading space.

Another point to note is that the entire pallet building takes place on the basis of the SPPG with a vision system for material flow control. This makes full use of the flexibility of the packing software, without being dependent on any product labelling or other pack labels.

A view of the whole

The Giebelstadt-based SAP specialists at SSI Schaefer offer users comprehensive and objective consultancy for IT planning and implementation along with proven hardware during the design and optimisation of their intralogistics. "Even in the SAP-ERP system environment there is a great need for clarification among customers on how far subordinated material flow and control systems can be integrated into or connected to SAP", according to Michael Vollmuth, Sales Manager for SAP Consulting at SSI Schaefer.

For SSI Schaefer as a general contractor, information technology is one of its core skills. The company focuses in particular on IT solutions which are provided by SAP for warehouse management and material flow systems. This relates mainly to SAP SCM EWM, which covers material flow functions as standard and can be flexibly adapted to the respective processes through parameter settings and scaling.

SAP consulting from SSI Schaefer is now aiming to provide long-term migration and IT concepts for customers when retrofitting, converting and fitting new plants. For example, solutions indicate whether and how certain material flow and control functions can be integrated in SAP EWM, what technological steps this requires, which interfaces are needed and where connections without changes in format are possible. "Depending on the customer's specific requirements, this means that standard systems can be customised and cost-effective solutions achieved in many different SAP scenarios and systems", summarises Vollmuth. "We show the customer objectively what is feasible in the downstream processes with the current SAP infrastructure and what is not, and will also handle the implementation if required."

For rapid change ...

For especially efficient storage of wheels and tyres, SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen has now developed a new, 4-compartment-deep tyre storage system: The Wheel Store – 4 Dynamic. The striking level of interest from customers shows that the intralogistics specialist has tapped into a current trend.

Wheels and tyres; a sector that is increasingly gaining significance for car dealerships. The repair requirements for vehicles are dropping as reliability improves. At the same time, service intervals are becoming longer and longer. As a consequence, vehicles are coming into workshops less and less often. If a dealer offers a strong selection of wheels and tyres, he will see customers twice a year in countries where winter and summer tyres are used. This offers additional opportunities in aftersales. Many dealers now go beyond simply changing the wheels, and also store, clean and check them. But where to store the wheels? Space is generally valuable and at a premium. Tyres often need to be changed in chilly seasons of the year, which makes shorts routes and fast picking times all the more important.

On behalf of Porsche, SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen, has designed a new wheel store. The new Wheel Store – 4 Dynamic is now providing exceptionally efficient storage for wheel sets valued at up to 7,000 euros in a minimum amount of space. This Porsche dealership in central Germany is now able to meet the demanding requirements of its customers with this new system.

Porsche cars are regarded as perhaps the most elegant of high-performance cars. A unique set of quality standards means that around 70% of all vehicles ever built are still on the road today. The fascination for sports cars shows no sign of abating. The car dealer sells around 110 new vehicles each year, plus 30 – 40 demonstration cars and 120 used ones.

Anyone who drives a Porsche expects a quick, precise response and top class performance. The Porsche Centre team imposes no lesser standards on itself. With the aim of continually surprising its customers with new innovations, the car dealer offers expert advice, specialist repairs and service of the highest possible standards. Needless to say, comprehensive tyre management is expected.

New equipment for racing teams

"We previously stored tyres in 3 overseas containers, but the capacity was fully used with 200 sets. Conventional storage was simply not going to work for us", explains Hans Jürgen Klingelhöfer, Managing Director at the Porsche Centre. A new, space-saving as well as efficient solution was required. It was also necessary to take into account that the tyres have different sizes depending on the model (mixed tyres). "SSI Schaefer implemented the right solution for us in just 3 days."

A single 7 x 20 metre container now stores around 220 sets of wheels directly next to the workshop area; 4-compartment deep as a complete set in one row. In total there are storage spaces available here for 345 sets of wheels. This means that Porsche has cut the space requirements for tyres by 2 containers, at the same time creating sufficient capacities for the future.

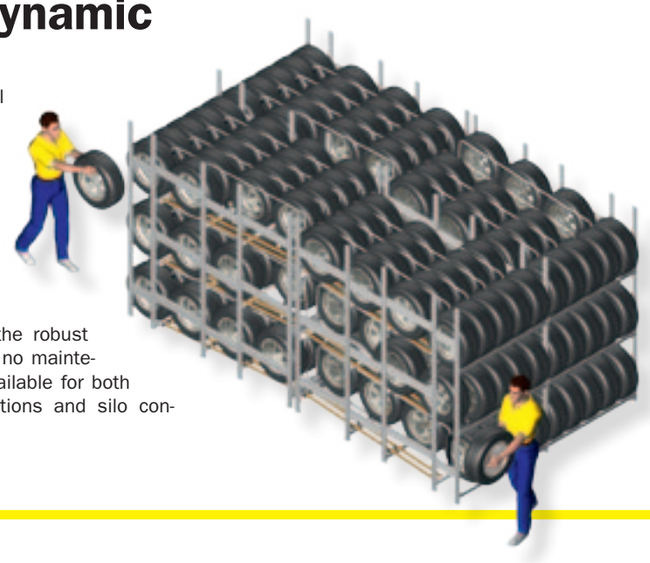
This means minimal space requirements, ideal storage, short routes and fast, ergonomic storage and retrieval processes! "The decision in favour of SSI Schaefer's wheel store was absolutely correct", according to Klingelhöfer. With the new system, Porsche offers its customers an ideal tyre/wheel management system with capacity for the future. This means that nothing stands in the way of growth at the Porsche centre.

... the Wheel Store – 4 Dynamic

In light of these developments, SSI Schaefer invented the new Wheel Store – 4 Dynamic. A special feature is its space-saving, 4-compartment storage depth, representing an alternative to mobile racking systems. The system can save up to 40% of floor space.

When it's time to change the tyres, the shelving system proves itself to be especially practical due to its roller system, which makes the operating process quick, easy and ergonomic with short transport times. What is more, a full set of tyres can be stored here in one channel. This helps to avoid accidential mix-ups of sets of tyres.

The 4 channel variants, which differ in width, can be easily re-configured with minimal technical requirements. Another special feature is that the robust system requires no maintenance and is available for both in-house applications and silo constructions.



Business is on a roll

A new, 4-compartment deep tyre store from SSI Schaefer, Austria, provides Mercedes Harb, Weiz (A), with the ideal tyre service. The new, space-saving warehouse has been developed as a silo construction in the company's corporate design in line with the car dealer's requirements.

In 1987, engineer Josef Harb took the leap into entrepreneurship. Today the Harb car centre, in addition to brands such as Mercedes, KIA, SEAT and Ssang Yong and more, also offers spare parts and accessories, repair services and car servicing. The company's aim is to achieve the highest levels of customer service with an approach based on quality.

This also includes a professional wheel management service. The company SSI Schaefer was appointed to install an appropriate logistics solution.

The task was clearly formulated: customer wheels and rims require storage in sets and come in different wheel sizes. As there was no building available for storing the tyres, a new building needed to be integrated into the existing line of buildings. The space available proved to be quite limited. SSI Schaefer planned to complete the project in 4 months.

The intralogistics specialist decided in favour of a 22 m long, 7.5 m wide and 6 m high rack supported building matching the existing architecture. The new wheel store integrated here permits space-saving storage – 4-compartments deep and in sets. There are currently 900 tyre fittings in a wide variety of widths and diameters in the Wheel Store – 4 Dynamic. The storage system on rollers turns storage and retrieval operations into a piece of cake.

"The new wheel store meets our expectations on every level. The space utilisation is ideal and operation is exceptionally easy. This forms the basis for future-oriented wheel management", according to Josef and Manfred Harb, Managing Directors of Mercedes Harb.

Quick deliveries of motorbike accessories

For motorbike accessories distributor Parts Europe, the SSI Schaefer Group has implemented a complex intralogistics concept. The solution ensures high delivery capability and reliable order processing with the optimal combination of steel engineering, innovative conveyor technology and proven IT systems.

With a wide range of motorbike-related articles, the LeMans Corporation is one of America's leading wholesalers of motorbike wheel sets, accessories and clothing. The company is now expanding into the European market. The location chosen for the new central warehouse for European LeMans subsidiary Parts Europe was Konz near Trier. The completed warehouse covers around 45,000 m².

The European central warehouse has been in operation since 2010. More than 10,000 customers between the Atlantic and the Ural, North Cape and the Middle East will be supplied from this warehouse in the coming years. Stocks of 150,000 articles from different manufacturers are maintained in the Parts Europe warehouse. Up to 2,500 shipments can be picked each hour.

The SSI Schaefer Group impressed the customer with a steel construction, innovative conveyor technology that can transport the entire heterogeneous spectrum of picked articles, an ingenious IT system and perfectly orchestrated project implementation without interface conflicts. The processes are controlled by the warehouse management systems WAMAS and Convey. The system incorporates 4 km of conveyor technology, and there are more than 800 tonnes of steel in the racking and platform systems.

The warehouse is divided into 4 areas: tyre, small parts, hazardous goods store and fullcase/selfship areas. Bulky goods are housed in a separate section. The incoming goods deliveries are entered and singulated using WAMAS. The products are then transferred to the continuous conveyor which delivers the goods to the storage locations specified by the WMS. As an order picking warehouse for small parts, there is a 4-tier platform system available with an integrated hanging goods store and 16,000 storage locations for motorbike clothing. The 3,100 m² tyre store with 6,720 storage levels forms the heart of the platform system. At the same time, pallets with the original packed articles are transported via forklift to the fullcase/selfship area that includes around 1,900 pallet storage spaces. A separate, single-level R 3000 modular shelving system is set up for storing hazardous goods.

Incoming goods registration via supplier code, pick-to-box order picking into the dispatch cartons, volume optimisation for incoming shipments and conveyor technology – Parts Europe has implemented an efficient solution right from its launch onto the marketplace. The reliable, partnership-based collaboration during the project and the state-of-the-art system aligned with the requirements of Parts Europe now provides the foundation for solid growth in Europe.

Easy sorting and fast movements

The Fulfilment Factory from SSI Schaefer demonstrates how intralogistics processes in B2B and B2C handling merge within a single system design.

Customers are increasingly being given the choice of purchasing an item in-store or via mail order. This is a significant challenge for the distribution centres as the logistics requirements and features of delivering to the end customer and store/wholesale operations differ significantly.

With the Fulfilment Factory, SSI Schaefer is offering a totally new product for combined order processing for various sales channels. The newly developed individual product conveyor and sorting technology will merge intralogistics for supplies to end customers (B2C) and store and wholesale business (B2B) in one integrated process; a patent application for this concept has already been filed. The Fulfilment Factory concept can be tailored flexibly to the user's logistical requirements across all sectors in terms of range of items, production volumes, spread over various sales channels and type and structure of picking orders. Another special feature of the new development is that it is the first to allow batch-picking, product sorting and order consolidation to be cost-effectively combined following the goods-to-man principle.

The Fulfilment Factory is a modular concept including warehousing, ergonomically and logistically optimised batch order picking. It features a totally new, space saving conveyor module and efficient buffering and sorting of batch items, as well as workstations for the integrated process of order assignment and packing and a link to shipment with a shipment buffer as an available option.

By using standardised system components and a special carrier system, the new development enables both individual products and item quantities to be conveyed in integral system technology. The Fulfilment Factory concept is also perfectly suited to returns processes which have become a very large part of distribution logistics.

"Pick and pack" for luxury leather goods

Longchamp commissioned SSI Schaefer to optimize its logistics centre in Segre, France. In partnership, the two companies developed a tailor-made solution for the order picking and automation of customer shipments. The system, controlled by Convey logistics software, increases productivity and provides a significant quality boost.

The history of Longchamp began in 1948 when Jean Cassegrain added a protective leather cover to his tobacco pipes to sell existing warehouse stock. In 1955 he expanded the product range and began specialising in the production of leather goods. This led the family company towards a breakthrough into the circle of large leather goods dealers.

All products manufactured by Longchamp are now shipped from the logistics centre in Segré. To design an even more efficient goods flow, the company decided to modernise and automate its order picking and dispatch system. The contract was awarded to SSI Schaefer, France.

Challenge: to develop a solution that allows both shelving-based packaging of articles and the order-based compilation of the packages to be delivered accurately to the boutiques. Dispatch output also needed to be increased to cover seasonal peaks.

The "Pick and Pack" order picking solution from SSI Schaefer is now used primarily for the shelving-based packaging of the products. Conveyor technology, an automated order start and an order picking system with wireless terminals and the WAMAS IT control system now ensure optimal routes in the warehouse and ideal order picking processes.

"SSI Schaefer has developed a system here that meets Denmark's high legal requirements in terms of ergonomics and work safety. With the direct link-up of our IT systems, we offer maximum process reliability and – in terms of traceability – consistent transparency for seamless documentation", summarises Sven Wohland, Change Agent at Danfoss.

Light-controlled technologies provide heat during the cold seasons

With the introduction of light-controlled pick techniques in order picking and assembly, Danish company Danfoss has considerably increased process and quality assurance in the field of high-pressure systems. With a direct link to SAP, the system from SSI Schaefer provides a high-end solution.

Anyone running a radiator thermostat during the cold months of the year is using an invention made by Danish manufacturer Danfoss. Today the company, which was founded in 1933, is one of the world's leading manufacturers of control technology in the heating sector and is also a major player in the field of low-maintenance, high-pressure pumps. When Danfoss began implementing their plans to optimise warehouse space, the focus was on increasing process reliability as well as improving the workplaces. The contract was awarded to SSI Schaefer, Denmark.

Depending on the size, between 20 and 40 high-pressure pumps are manufactured each day at the company's headquarters in Nordborg, Denmark. Stocks of around 400 different individual parts are maintained at the listed company's production site. The assembly jobs are transferred from the SAP system directly to the E-Pick system based on products and orders. The system communicates with the Warehouse Management System (WMS) and initiates the order picking process for the required materials in the three live storage shelving systems. Here the parts are picked, confirmed and transferred to the assembly point according to pick-by-light instructions and paperless.

Once all the requested parts have been transferred, the system enables the assembly of the pump ordered. The employee selects the jobs via the display at the workstation, and the storage locations for the parts to be assembled are illuminated in the correct sequence for picking and assembly. Images of the assembly stages stored in the system guide the worker through the process step-by-step. Acknowledgements of picks and assembly stages on the light strip and on the display touchscreen provide comprehensive process reliability and optimal assembly results. Using the WMS link, the stock levels on the live storage shelving systems are also monitored continuously and the replenishment supply is triggered automatically as required.

Manual is cost-effective too

Entirely without automation, Grupo Thisa – Gavias, Alcalá de Henares in Spain, has optimised processes and created sufficient capacities for the future with a manual warehouse solution from SSI Schaefer.

Grupo Thisa – Gavias has established itself as one of Spain's leading companies in the sale of installation, heating and plumbing materials. The central warehouse in Alcalá de Henares has around 12,500 articles in store and supplies 86 sales offices. To ensure a smooth workflow, SSI Schaefer, Spain, was awarded the contract to plan and implement an efficient logistics solution.

The project represents the synergies within the company group allowing the ideal solution to be identified. Grupo Thisa – Gavias was initially leaning towards an automated small parts store. However, an objective data analysis conducted by SSI Schaefer showed that a simpler, more cost-effective solution would be the better option in this case.

The result is a 4-storey, 9.86 m high modular shelving system which optimises the processes and rules out frequent bottlenecks in the order picking process. The 1,180 shelving bays are currently filled with only around 5,000 articles. This means that the solution offers sufficient capacities for the future, guaranteeing a long-term improvement in storage efficiency.

Success bolted onto logistics

With a custom-developed logistics concept from SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen, Max Mothes GmbH, Düsseldorf, has further expanded its logistics site in Neuss-Uedesheim.

Since 1918, Max Mothes has dedicated itself with passion and commitment to all kinds of mechanical connection methods. Ensuring that the delivery reaches the customer on time requires precise planning of the logistical processes. Rapid routes, efficient storage and transparent processes are essential here. In this way, Max Mothes is gradually consolidating its decentralised logistics structures and combining all its warehouse and distribution functions in Neuss by the end of 2010. A new warehouse was now added to the existing four.

In the new storage facility, around 2,800 m² of space provide a tailor-made 3-storey R 3000 modular shelving system and a PR 600 pallet racking system for modern storage and order picking of goods.

This new solution sees Max Mothes fulfilling the requirements for handling their logistics tasks with a high level of productivity and flexibility. This means that the company has already achieved time savings of 3 days due to the centralisation process.

A firework of innovations

CeMAT is to intralogistics what the Oscars are to the world of film. With a firework of innovations, SSI Schaefer is setting the trends and is again demonstrating precisely why the company group is the world market leader.

1,084 companies, 1,000 world firsts and 58,000 trade visitors from 38 countries. For 5 whole days, the exhibition grounds in Hanover were taken over entirely by the field of intralogistics. The theme at this year's event was sustainability. CeMAT 2011 was a huge success for SSI Schaefer. In the process, the trade show demonstrated that the intralogistics sector is finally out of the crisis.

SSI Schaefer set up a trade show stand that set trends and required many months of hard labour as well as intensive design work! Result: an innovative "world of efficiency". On a 2,100 m² exhibit, the intralogistics specialist presented the synergies of the company group with an ingenious stand concept. Whether it is the SSI Autocruiser, containers, steel structure or the award-winning SSI Order Verifier – visitors were equally impressed by the variety of product innovations as well as by the stand itself. These were installed in 3 integrated systems in a complete material flow with an exceptionally practical design.

The Fulfilment Factory, a world novelty, was demonstrated by the company to selected guests only and within an enclosed exhibit area due to the high level of innovation incorporated into the product.

After a steady first day at the trade show, the number of visitors to the stand increased rapidly. A key feature of the trade show was the high quality of contacts and the unparalleled number of international visitors. Many came with specific investment plans. The stand once again demonstrated just what SSI Schaefer stands for: unprecedented innovation power and efficiency.

Award for SSI Order Verifier

The SSI Order Verifier, presented by SSI Schaefer as a world novelty, won the MM Logistik Award at this year's CeMAT. The innovation for fully automatic, accurate checking and documenting of dispatched goods finished first in the ID technology category against numerous competitors.

A panel comprising experts from MM Logistik magazine examined the entries in detail prior to the trade show itself.

Following a multi-stage evaluation system, the decision was made in favour of the SSI Order Verifier. The award ceremony was held during CeMAT on the first day of the trade show.

Rudolf Keller (CEO, International Operations, left) and Ken Fouhy (MM Logistik) at the award ceremony.

SSI Order Verifier – the fully automated inspector

Error-free shipments with complete documentation is the aim of every distribution centre. The new SSI Order Verifier provides exactly that: fully automated, accurate checking and documenting of goods dispatched.

Recent developments in image processing and mechanics provide a unique solution for automatically counting, identifying and documenting items. The system automatically checks complete shipping orders at a speed of up to 6,000 items an hour. A patent registration has already been filed for the technology used which raises quality levels in order picking to that of Six Sigma, in other words an accuracy of more than 99.999%. Whether for wholesale or retail, the ordered product reaches the right customer 100% of the time. In addition, the module for the automated monitoring processes satisfies statutory requirements for track & trace and forms the basis for extensive shipping documentation and consistent documentary evidence of origin (Pedigree Law).

The test module operates as a standalone station in the material flow or is incorporated into the conveyor technology immediately following order picking. No matter whether new 1D or 2D barcode variants or RFID technologies are used, the SSI Order Verifier will adapt easily.

Workflow: the items picked into containers for an order are emptied into the checking station and automatically separated on a conveyor belt. The system then records the barcodes of the individual parts. Products without barcodes are captured photographically. The industrial image processing technology used allows the volume, content, expiration date and counterfeit indicator of all items to be checked. Information technology compares the information recorded with the corresponding order details. The recorded item data and photos are saved to the IT system and stored for documentation purposes.

Result: High transparency and process reliability without any major changes to existing warehousing processes. The product typically pays for itself in less than two years.

New performance level for in-house transport

It looks somewhat like a toy train from childhood – the SSI Autocruiser. Large numbers of visitors at the CeMAT stand found themselves captivated by the standalone transport system that closes the gap between forklift transport and conventional conveyor technology in in-house goods transport.

With an optimum performance of up to 600 transport units per hour, the scalable system is geared towards applications with smaller and medium-sized throughput – such as production disposal, returns processing or handling of special articles. Standard containers, cartons and individual articles of up to 30 kg are conveyed.

The advantages are compelling: in comparison to traditional processes, the system achieves cost reductions of up to 50% and energy savings of over 80%. At the same time, a typical Autocruiser system costs less than a third of a conventional conveyor system and is exceptionally easy to set up without any special knowledge.

The system consists of a standalone, self-propelled transport carrier and features a robust track network fitted with loading units. The rail system can be freely planned in terms of length and routing and can therefore be optimally linked up to different processing stations, building sections as well as the production department and the warehouse. Except for a power supply via standard plug sockets, it requires no other connections to IT systems and/or conveyor infrastructure.

South American fruits refrigerated and earthquake-proof

South American fruit producer Ditzler Chile Ltda. has put its new, partially automated mobile pallet racking system into operation. The project was characterised by requirements for earthquake safety.

"The project met my expectations in every respect. Even under the more difficult conditions imposed by the earthquake safety requirements, I was able to rely fully on the expertise and cooperativeness of SSI Schaefer", according to Bruno Ditzler, owner of Louis Ditzler AG.

Ditzler Chile Ltda. is a subsidiary of Louis Ditzler AG, based in Möhlin, Switzerland. The South American firm's core business is the production of fruit, which is supplied to major distributors and retail chains.

Between February 2010 and January 2011 alone, Chile suffered two severe earthquakes and several quakes of more moderate intensity. The government imposes very high standards of earthquake-proof building. Individuals are held personally responsible if any defects are found. To avoid this, all new buildings – including warehouses and racking systems – are inspected by specialists in line with strict structural engineering guidelines.

SSI Schaefer already had a proven track record in constructing earthquake-proof projects in Chile, some of which have already been tested in real life. For this reason, the South American fruit producer also opted to place the contract for a partially automated mobile pallet racking system with the intralogistics specialist. To implement the solution, the experts at SSI Schaefer refined their earthquake-proof design to create new, optimised standards for mobile racking systems in earthquake zones. Thanks to a modular warehouse technology concept, the solution is scalable according to the earthquake risk.

The new refrigerated facility for the Chilean fruit producer now far exceeds the standards in terms of earthquake safety. The 10,000 pallet spaces in the mobile racking system are split into two semi-automated systems, with 16 and 17 double-face mobile bases respectively. The company's own produce only fills about 10% of the capacity of the new mobile racking system. However, the extra capacity was built in for a reason. Ditzler makes the remaining 9,000 industrial pallet spaces available to other companies in the industry as a warehouse logistics provider, thus opening up an additional line of business.

New traditions in old barrels

For pleasure that indulges all the senses, Birkenhof Brennerei in Nistertal has constructed a new warehouse. The result is a system that can be used to mature the whisky in wooden barrels for several years until it reaches its full flavour.

For over 160 years, the Birkenhof family has dedicated itself with passion and tradition to the production of high-quality schnapps and liquors. With the courage and willingness to take risks, the distillery has been following a new path since 2007: whisky production. The company now plans to expand this third product sector even further.

"To achieve our goals we need a new, secure warehouse where the whisky can acquire its full flavour", outlines Steffi Klöckner, Managing Director at Birkenhof-Brennerei. The contract was awarded to SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen.

Maturing time is the key quality feature here. This meant that the task was not focused on rapid storage and retrieval processes, but rather to find the ideal solution for storing a product that is not moved for a considerable time. It also needs to allow for expansion of the warehouse over the decades. Another key point is that every wooden barrel is unique in terms of size, shape and surface. This meant that fixed storage locations were not feasible. Flexibility was the order of the day in the mixed storage facility.

Since December 2010, Fading Hill whisky has been maturing in a new 100 m² warehouse in 100 traditional sherry barrels – in PR 350 pallet racking. Barrels of many different sizes and weighing between 100 – 500 kg were placed directly onto wooden blocks located on crossrails here. The storage locations are assigned flexibly as required. Each year, between 30 and 40 new barrels are added. There is space for up to 400 medium-sized containers.

With the new pallet racking, SSI Schaefer has created a timeless storage facility where each whisky can mature in peace under the ideal conditions. "The storage in wooden barrels is perfect. Thanks to the new system, with its customised design and uncommon use, we have successfully formed the basis for further growth", summarized Steffi Klöckner.

Refrigerated seafood storage

SSI Schaefer in Thailand was selected by Okeanos Food Co., Ltd to design and install the new storage systems for Okeanos' latest cold room facilities in Thailand.

Okeanos Food Co., Ltd, a subsidiary of Pakfood, is one of Thailand's largest providers of seafood and ready meals. The company supplies more than 100 varieties of products to several countries around the world, including USA, Japan and EU.

The newly extended plant of Okeanos is located at Samutsakorn, central Thailand, with nearly 12,000 m² of floor space, and it contains 3 conceptual systems in temperatures of -25°C. More than 16,000 pallet locations of Schaefer mobile racking system, drive-in system and interlock selective pallet racking system were installed in the warehouse.

Over the past 13 months, SSI Schaefer has worked closely with Okeanos to provide the best storage design for the new solution. Based on the preliminary budget and high demand for space utilisation, warehouse analyses were carried out on a regular basis for promptly identifying the different types of storage solutions to fit Okeanos' various product profiles. The new storage room will increase the warehouse efficiency for Okeanos with the features of high selectivity and accessibility.

The end customer strategy

With a new department for automated turnkey solutions, the SSI Schaefer headquarters in Neunkirchen is taking a leap into the world of automation. The primary target market is SME.

Until now, three SSI Schaefer subsidiaries have stood for complex automated solutions: SSI Schaefer Noell, SSI Schaefer Peem and Salomon Automation. And it will stay this way. Nevertheless, the intralogistics specialist has decided to expand its range of offerings even further. With the new "Automated turnkey solutions" sales department, the company headquarters in the Siegerland region is now also dedicated to automation.

With the new department, SSI Schaefer caters to the needs of medium-sized companies finding themselves between two worlds, with a particular question: Manual system or an automated solution? Whereas the subsidiaries primarily handle complex, larger projects, SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen offers semi-automated solutions as well as fully-automated systems for medium-sized companies. Above all, the offer is specifically tailored to the end user.

In this way, SSI Schaefer provides its customers with even more comprehensive consulting. Always with the objective of increasing efficiency.

An initial project for joinery and carpentry

From the end of 2011, a new, automatic high bay pallet storage system from SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen will be providing efficient, space-saving goods storage at Rudolf Ostermann GmbH, Bocholt.

The expanding wholesaler for carpentry supplies is the European leader in mail order joinery supplies and fittings with over 1,000 orders per day. The ever-growing range also includes tools and machinery, design elements and installation and assembly articles.

To increase stock reliability and shorten delivery times, Ostermann decided in March 2011 to purchase a future-oriented, flexible storage solution from SSI Schaefer. A key feature for the wholesaler, aside from the price/performance ratio, was the necessary experience and expertise in providing consulting on SAP solutions as well as implementing them.

To store and pick semi-finished and finished goods, the Siegerland-based intralogistics specialist is currently implementing the associated automatic high bay pallet racking system in a silo design with 10,000 pallet storage spaces for euro/industrial pallets and mesh boxes. The complete material flow control and warehouse management system will be implemented later on in SAP WM/TRM.

The complete integration into the existing SAP landscape at Ostermann also saves the customer additional interfaces and the hassle of modifying them when processes change. Performance and availability have also been improved.

Two Schaefer Compact Crane storage and retrieval systems with a construction height of approx. 24 m will in the future perform goods storage and retrieval operations. The products are transported via pallet conveyor technology. In the process, the general contractor is supplying all the components of the logistics centre from one source.

Storage and order picking with an automatic unit

LogiMat® from SSI Schaefer is a storage lift designed to greatly improve the capabilities of the warehouse and the efficiency and flexibility of the storage and order-picking processes. And it does this in the smallest of spaces.

Storage lifts based on the vertical principle are an ideal solution wherever flexibility and optimum use of the available warehouse space are paramount. SSI Schaefer's LogiMat® is a system requiring just 1/10 of the storage area of a conventional static storage. The automatic storage system uses the simple goods-to-man principle and cuts travel times by more than 70%. It also increases the speed of order picking six- to tenfold by automating the process.

In principle, the storage lift is similar to an oversized drawer cabinet with two rows of trays; one in the front, and one in the back. Between these rows is a lift. This lift travels the whole height of the automatic storage system to remove the individual trays from their respective positions and to deliver them to the operating window. The items required are displayed via a touch-screen and logical, user-friendly operating interface. The warehouse management system transfers the orders directly to the storage lift where the respective trays of items are controlled and moved to the operating window. The warehouse staff then removes the goods required at an ergonomic height.

The LogiMat® is extremely flexible and can be adapted to any individual requirement because of its modular structure. There are no restrictions on how the system is installed; it can feature separate replenishment and picking sides, replenishment on both sides or picking one floor up, can be installed in the basement or over two floors, as a system penetrating the roof, countersunk in the floor or attached with a casing construction. For example, it can be installed as a single storage lift or if required can be easily combined with other devices which are simply controlled by a warehouse management system. Each picking window also has a very user-friendly multifunction touch-screen and can be operated autonomously.

SSI Schaefer takes over Handler A/S

SSI Schaefer takes over Handler A/S (Humlebæk/DK) and thus adds to the product portfolio with the important storage lift segment.

With more than 2,500 references, Handler A/S occupies a strong market position in the storage lift market, particularly in Scandinavia. With the integration of the Danish company, SSI Schaefer completes its product chain as a full-service provider for intralogistics. Owing to the practically complete coverage of value creation by the SSI Schaefer Group, it is expected that significant synergies in production, distribution, project management as well as in customer service & support will be achieved.

The LogiMat® storage lift is considered future-oriented and extremely user-friendly. Thanks to the ergonomically designed components, the LogiMat® integrates seamlessly into the SSI Schaefer product range ergonomics@work® .

New unicef hub for worldwide relief operations

UNICEF, Denmark is currently building a new distribution centre that will be used as the central hub for worldwide relief operations. Tonnes of packages for areas affected by catastrophes will be sent from here quickly and cost-effectively around the world. SSI Schaefer, Denmark, is ensuring flexible, precise and cost-effective logistics management.

UNICEF is active around the world to protect the rights of children. The UN children's charity was founded in 1946 and currently operates in over 150 countries.

From 2012, a fully automated high-bay pallet racking system with 36,828 storage spaces and an automatic small parts store from SSI Schaefer in Copenhagen will be storing bandages, plasters, basic foodstuffs and blankets. So that the help does actually reach the place where it is urgently needed in good time, UNICEF is implementing the Schaefer Compact Crane (SCC) pallet racking servicing unit in the high-bay racking system. In the small parts store where smaller aid goods are stored, the Schaefer Miniload Crane (SMC) storage and retrieval device handles the orders. Pallet conveyor technology and electrical floor tracks form the link that conveys the goods to the workstations, from where the packages are sent around the world, once they are complete.

The new goods distribution centre is set to become a visible landmark on the waterside promenade in Copenhagen. This project is associated with considerable prestige, enjoying a personal visit from Danish Queen Margrethe II.

Inbrief

SSI Schaefer supports charity organisation Enham releasing potential

Enham in Hampshire, is a leading charity dedicated to transforming the lives of people with physical and learning disabilities and mental health needs. The organisation relies on donations from the public to carry out its projects.

SSI Schaefer has provided essential funding for a mobile exhibition on the EACH project for the Enham Alamein Community.

Jaap Vos, Director, SSI Schaefer, England: "We are proud to support Enham – it is crucial that local businesses get involved in local charities that benefit the wider community. The EACH Project exhibition is full of invaluable information about how the charity started, who it benefits and how others can get involved. I hope that this will encourage more people to volunteer for projects such as these."

New products for the Schaefer Miniload Crane family

SSI Schaefer is adding two new storage and retrieval devices to its range of Schaefer Miniload Cranes (SMC) in the form of compact twin-mast devices. Newly developed drive technology enables fast, vibration-dampened transport of loads weighing up to 300 kg at heights of up to 24 m.

In the field of storage and retrieval systems, SSI Schaefer has added two new Schaefer Miniload Cranes for shelf servicing to its product portfolio for shelf automation solutions for containers, boxes and trays. In addition to the single-mast storage and retrieval system, the equipment range is being expanded with SMC 2 and SMC 2 XL with two compact twin-mast storage and retrieval systems. In response to market requirements, this move extends the flexible construction concept of SMC machines into dynamic processes for higher loads. Based on the two new systems, the shelf servicing devices for automatic small parts warehouses will be able to use a closed lifting trolley to hold two standard or one large piece of load-carrying equipment or to be moved by two independent lifting trolleys or pieces of load-carrying equipment; all this can be done at access heights of up to 12 m or 24 m. This results in high payloads and greater throughput.

Irrespective of their different features, all models in the SMC family of devices are designed using the modular principle. As in the first series, the Schaefer Miniload Cranes of the SMC 2 series offer impressive and extremely stable masts and optimum use of space due to their low clearances. A special production process lends them a very high resistance torque in spite of their low inherent weight. For example, the twin-mast variant can move up to 300 kg in the automatic small parts warehouse with closed load-carrying equipment. The on-board control cabinet is an eye-catching and significant external feature of the SMC family and is found in the SMC 2 variants as well. A recessed groove allows the control cabinet to be perfectly integrated into the device without taking up too much space. This particular design feature also prevents the mast from vibrating and perfectly guides the forces introduced to the chassis.

High quality, tried and tested machine elements produced inhouse ensure easy, low maintenance as well as longevity. These components are highly standardised both in terms of design and production resulting in quick availability, short assembly and start-up times.

Inbrief

Logistica in Oslo

In 2011 the SSI Schaefer Logistica was held for the first time in Oslo, Norway, with over 80 Norwegian companies. Talks, reference projects, site visits, professional networking and dialogues covered the latest discoveries in manual, semi-automatic and fully automatic warehouse logistics.

The 2-day seminar, which took place at Scandic Oslo Airport, was aimed in particular at smaller and medium-sized companies.

The delegates asked specific questions that were addressed with professional and inspiring responses. Thanks to presentations of the innovative technologies, interesting reference projects such as Brødrene A & O Johansen and an intensive transfer of knowledge, the companies gained an in-depth insight into the world of efficiency.

Getting lean

'Eliminate waste and maximise efficiency' – this was the overriding message given to a group of delegates at the Lean Factory Group workshop, hosted in Andover, Hampshire. SSI Schaefer is part of this association.

The event took place at the SSI Schaefer branch office in England. Delegates had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with a production line established according to the latest Lean Manufacturing Technology, and to compare it with their own production plants.

The event offered a comprehensive overview of how to implement lean structures across the entire supply chain. The practical and visual demonstration highlighted waste within the processes and provided delegates with an interesting and stimulating source of information.

The rapid route to a secure future

The company UFP specialises in the sale of IT materials and is relying on SSI Schaefer to equip its entire logistics platform in St. Léger, France.

UFP supplies retail chains, SMEs and public services across France with IT products. In total, over 10,000 points of delivery are supplied within 24 - 48 hours. The basic requirement for this is an interlinked, powerful logistics system. “We wanted to utilise the services of a single supplier to equip our warehouse”, explains Thierry Wolff, Director of the UFP site. “SSI Schaefer, France, provided us with a quotation that met our requirements completely and in full.” Result: a tailor-made solution for controlling all goods and data flows in the warehouse.

In collaboration with SSI Schaefer, Graz, the intralogistics specialist installed a turnkey system: from the racking – a PR 600 pallet racking system with 20,000 pallet storage locations, a dynamic live storage racking system as well as a R 3000 modular shelving system – to conveyor technology and automated picking systems (Pemat) right through to the software programs for controlling the warehouse operations. On an area of 29,000 m², the company now stores, picks and dispatches up to 3,500 items of freight an hour using the new solution.

All types of freight are prepared on demand so that UFP can easily adapt to its customers‘ requirements. To increase the accuracy and speed of order picking, the forklift drivers work using a pick-by-voice system. Among other equipment, an automatic storage system for labels, delivery notes and invoices, as well as a weight check of each consignment with photographic registration of the carton content ensure error-free deliveries to end customers.

The new logistics system at Szerencsejáték Zrt., Hungary has been in full operation since the beginning of June. Scratchcards, lottery tickets and pools coupons can now be supplied efficiently and uniquely identified in terms of logistics each week to 4,500 sales points in Hungary.

Not simply a question of luck

Around 50% of the Hungarian lottery market is controlled by Szerencsejáték Zrt. The company sells mainly two lottery games: Lotto and Tippmix.

For more efficient shipping of the lottery materials, the company decided to modernise the warehouse. The aim was to develop a goods management system and to combine the shipping of products in a controlled way. Another goal was to reduce the operating costs. In this process, each shipment needs to be clearly identified with the transfer time on the documentation. The contract was awarded to SSI Schaefer, Hungary.

The newly developed order picking system features a conveyor track of around 70 m. In addition, SSI Schaefer provided workstations with a pick-by-light system, live storage shelving with 30 FiFo channels and containers for a transparent material flow concept. An automatic address label printer adds a code to the orders, ensuring transparent tracking.

Storing cardboard with style

With the commissioning of a new distribution warehouse by the young corrugated cardboard manufacturer Packner in Schüttdorf, Lower Saxony, at the end of 2010, the starting signal was also sounded for production. With the state-of-the-art site close to the A 31 highway, the company is now one of Europe’s most modern processors of corrugated cardboard.

The general contractor was the Troisdorf-based company SIVAplan, which signed SSI Schaefer, Neunkirchen, for the establishment of the fully automated high bay warehouse in a channel storage version.

From production through to shipment, the choice of location was the key for rapid processes: to cut long transport routes, the warehouse is directly next to their supplier of raw materials. “In general, we process the corrugated cardboard directly following its arrival from the neighbourhood. If bottlenecks occur, the production department is able to access the goods directly from a buffer warehouse”, explains Frank Gausepohl, Managing Director at Packners.

This small buffer warehouse is integrated into the single-aisle channel warehouse in a silo design. With a length of 80 m, a width of 28 m and a height of 34 m, it provides space for 14,000 pallets for storing the finished cartons in addition to the raw materials area. Until dispatch, the goods are held in the fully automated high bay warehouse.

The savings Packners achieves with this efficient intralogistics concept are happily passed on to their customers. Additionally, the environment also profits.

Source: Peer Vespermann/SIVAplan

More flexibility for power tools and more

SSI Schaefer has just completed the design and installation of a three-tier modular shelving system for STIHL in Camberley, Great Britain. The entire pallet racking on the site was also completely overhauled.

STIHL is synonymous with chainsaws. One of the most popular chainsaw brands in the world, STIHL develops, manufactures and sells motor-driven equipment for agriculture, forestry and construction.

The new R 3000 modular shelving system from SSI Schaefer, England, which has been built to exact customer specifications, allows STIHL to develop the business over time without worrying about additional space.

“The new multi tier shelving system, built in line with current building regulations, has provided STIHL with a unique spare parts storage area able to accommodate all of the items previously stored in a number of carousel machines. The flexibility and adaptability of the shelving system will see us through the next phase of business growth”, summarises Paul Brennan, Project Manager at STIHL.

Pharmaceutical distribution on a new level

UTI Pharma, South Africa’s leading pharmaceutical distributor, has chosen SSI Schaefer to supply and install their brand new national distribution centre in Johannesburg.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the state-of-the-art installation took place on 23 May 2011. The installation consists of a high-performance picking system with 24 Schaefer Carousel units and a fully automated high-bay pallet warehouse with 10 SSI Schaefer storage and retrieval systems of 32 m in height.

The fully integrated solution supports full pallet, case and single piece pick operations, as well as the bundling of store orders, within one system and will be able to process over 30,000 order lines per day.

The project succeeded thanks to the newly established office of SSI Schaefer Systems South Africa, in collaboration with SSI Schaefer, Graz. The new branch office in South Africa will provide the full spectrum of SSI Schaefer Services to Southern Africa including Local Maintenance & Support and a complete Sales & Engineering Office.

On top of technology with RFID

Along with the conventional manual mobile shelving system, SSI Schaefer now presents the electric model. Compared with the manual version, the electric solution is equipped with an individual motor drive. This assures fast, safe and labour-saving operation, even at loads of up to 2 x 8 tonnes. The innovation: control and command orders for moving the single shelves are transmitted via RFID technology!

The system is unlocked by scanning the chipcard at the control panel. Access light barriers and optional safety access barriers at foot level provide the highest safety. The aisles automatically move in the right direction with a single tap on the control panel. The operator then removes or places the goods from or on the shelf. The aisle then needs to be unlocked again following each operation. Unauthorised access to the system is prevented through the use of RFID.

Inbrief

INTERCEPT® containers with in-mould foil

It is now well-known that containers with INTERCEPT® technology protect goods against corrosion during transport, shipment and storage under extreme conditions. It also includes ESD protection as required.

What is new is that SSI Schaefer is now offering containers with in-mould film at even lower prices. In the injection moulding process, the containers are moulded with INTERCEPT® films. This way, the film is permanently fixed to the base and the lengthwise walls. The efficacy of the INTERCEPT® function remains unchanged with this process.

The result is proven effectiveness even at high loads and in extreme usage and storage conditions. Protection under all climatic conditions and environmental influences – even at temperatures of -35 to +80°C. The material does not emit chemical substances, can be recycled, is environmentally neutral and suitable for re-use.

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