

### **AutoStore® small parts warehouse with adjacent components for Richter + Frenzel in Reichertshofen**

Since more than 125 years the company Richter + Frenzel is a recognized specialist wholesaler for sanitary and building services products. Over 4,200 employees at 180 locations in Germany offer qualified support and planning with products from more than 1,800 manufacturers. The newly erected central logistics center at the Reichertshofen site supplies own branches as well as skilled craftsmen throughout the country. The core element of this warehouse is a fully automated storage and picking system for small parts. Hörmann Logistik's intralogistics concept, consisting of an AutoStore® small parts warehouse with connected conveyor technology for order picking and palletizing, convinced all along the line and won the contract.

#### **The concept**

The AutoStore® warehouse installed in a newly built hall. The workstations for goods receipt and goods issue or picking are, according to the flow of goods, on the opposite sides of the AutoStore® system.

Hörmann Logistik performed several real-time system simulations with original customer data for the customized AutoStore system design. Based on this, Hörmann Logistik recommended batch processing at the goods issue/picking points. The findings from customer requirements and simulation results led to a system configuration with 45 robots, 50,000 containers on 16 levels and corresponding workstation modules.

The AutoStore® system consists of an all-side covered aluminium grid. The stacks, each with 16 containers, stand directly on the hall floor. The grid rail system is located above the container stacks. There the battery-powered robots move autonomously. The robots jointly pick up containers, re-sort them as required, supply and dispose the workstations.

The maximum total weight of the containers (649mm l x 449mm w x 330mm h) is 35 kgs with a net load of about 30 kgs. Weight control at the ports prevents an overload. Hörmann Logistik implements a self-learning system for weight and volume data to fill the containers in the most efficient way. The individual compartments of the containers (quarter, half or whole container) serve to store items of the same type and quality only.

The Hörmann Logistik warehouse management system HiLIS AS records the quantity that is successfully stored in a container / subdivision. Thus, the system gradually approaches the maximum container filling quantity.

Four crosswise arranged pairs of wheels allow the robots to move to any position in the grid at a rate of 3,1m/s. The robots communicate via WLAN with the AutoStore® controller, from where they receive individual transport orders. In case of low workload or low battery charge, the

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## Press information

robots automatically move to one of the charging stations at the edge of the grid. The AutoStore® control system sits on the connected service platform.

The warehouse management system HiLIS AS, which Hörmann Logistik has developed especially for the AutoStore® systems, is responsible for the higher-level management of the system, including all interfaces to the ERP system. The customer's picking and palletizing robots also communicate via interface with HiLIS AS. The HiLIS AS visualization allows to easily retrieve all system data and functions at any time.

The new AutoStore® intralogistics solution at Richter + Frenzel went into operation in June 2019.

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