

Press release

Expansion of the highly dynamic AutoStore® warehouse for Geomix in Liezen

As an official partner of the Austrian Football Association and the Austrian Football League, Geomix GmbH supplies clothing and shoes for football, leisure, running and training from its on-line shop. This extensive fan shop also offers original shirts from the most important of international leagues. At the location in Liezen, Styria, HÖRMANN Intralogistics set up an AutoStore[®] system in an existing warehouse, to support the company's e-commerce process. In late 2022, encouraging business results and the proven profitability of the AutoStore[®] solution led to an order for the system's extension at the end of 2022.

High picking rates for a wide range of items

The original one AutoStore[®] system configuration with 52 robots and 23,500 bins on nine levels was based on the need to operate 20 hours a day, 5 days a week, the spatial conditions and the results of numerous system simulations using real data. The height of the AutoStore[®] Grid was determined by the existing building.

The single-double grid clad on three sides has now been extended, increasing overall output to 1,600 picks per hour with additional robots and carousel ports.

	Initial configuration	Expansion	Entire system
Bins 23,500 900 24,400			
Red-Line Robots	52	6	58
Carousel ports	11	2	13

The single-double grid now has a total area of 1,135 m². In addition, various conversion works were carried out, including erection of an overhanging storage platform.

The 24,400 standard format 649 mm x 449 mm x 330 mm (L x W x H) bins can each carry a load of around 30 kg.

1,600 picks per hour for maximum dynamics

In principle, all workstation modules are equipped such that item storage or order picking can be carried out on them at any time. The incoming items are delivered to the three storage ports by warehouse staff. The identified pick rate of 1,600 stock removals per hour results in a perpick cycle time of approx. 19 seconds.

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The grid system consists of stacks of 9 bins, standing directly on the warehouse floor. The single double-grid rail system on which the autonomous, battery-powered robots travel is mounted above the bin stacks. These robots cooperatively pick up bins, sorting them if necessary, and serve them to the carousel ports. The bins can be flexibly divided using dividers, meaning that several different items can be carried.

The robots can travel in two directions on four pairs of wheels arranged diagonally, enabling them to reach every position in the grid. The AutoStore[®] controller issues the transport orders to the individual robots via WLAN. When order demand is low or their batteries are running low, the robots automatically drive themselves to one of the charging stations located at the edge of the grid. The AutoStore[®] controller is housed on the connected service platform.

For picking operations, complete picking orders (task groups) with the individual picking stations (tasks) can be transferred to AutoStore[®]. With its integrated optimisation algorithms, AutoStore[®] ensures maximum order processing efficiency with lead times of around 30 minutes. Items that belong together are stored in the shipping boxes, and the boxes are given a barcode "matched" to the shipping order number.

"This scalable AutoStore[®] automation solution, which grows with our operational needs, is fundamental for the sustainable success of any company, especially in the e-commerce sector."

Karl Zettler, Leiter E-commerce geomix GmbH

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