

Press release

A world's first combined chilled and room temperature AutoStore® system for online retailer flaschenpost SE

The flaschenpost on-line supermarket first went online with its instant delivery service in 2016 and now delivers food, drinks and everyday products to more than 200 cities throughout Germany. Over 20,000 employees currently ensure that the promise of "delivery within 120 minutes" is fulfilled from over 30 warehouse locations. At the location in Langenfeld (Rhineland), HÖRMANN Intralogistics is for the building the world's first ever micro-fulfilment solution that combines two AutoStore® systems, the connecting conveyor technology and the necessary cooling system in an existing building.

Chilled and non-chilled goods at rates of up to 9,500 bin movements per day

HÖRMANN Intralogistics' innovative design for this AutoStore® system combines the two different temperature zones, "Ambient" and "Chilled", making it possible to pick dry and chilled items from both zones for individual orders.

André Damkowski, flaschenpost's Senior Logistics Engineer, is really looking forward to completing the works currently underway: "Expanding our product range to include food, along with growing demand, meant we had to seriously upgrade our intralogistics processes with automation technology. Working close alongside HÖRMANN Intralogistics on the design and detailed planning of this innovative solution meant we could tailor it precisely to our needs."

The AutoStore® system configuration was based on the need to operate 16 hours a day, 6 days a week, along with other customer requirements and the results of the simulations. The final configuration of the "Chilled" system comprises approx. 8,500 AutoStore® bins stacked directly on the floor over 16 levels, in a grid system measuring approx. 10 m x 40 m (L x W). Eighteen "Red-Line" robots move in both directions on the track on four pairs of wheels arranged diagonally, enabling them to reach every position on the grid. They work tirelessly picking up bins, storing and re-sorting them and operating the eight conveyor ports ready for storage and picking.

The scope of supply also included the complete cladding for the chilled system, plus the cooling technology to operate the system at 2°C. The cooling system is specially adapted to ensure minimal dissipation in operation, and so optimal energy efficiency.

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The "Ambient" AutoStore® system for room temperature items in the flaschenpost warehouse is directly adjacent. Approximately 10,000 bins are available over 16 levels in an 8 m x 40 m (L x W) grid system. Twenty-five robots supply the eight carousel ports on the grid for storage and retrieval.

This advanced automated eGrocery distribution centre architecture is the result of a great deal of trust: as Tom Walther, Business Development Manager at HÖRMANN Intralogistics sums up, "it takes a lot of courage to go down new paths, and we were lucky to have flaschenpost as partner in the very intense project planning phase. This AutoStore® system is a real world's first in terms of the layout and design of the various temperature levels".

In its current configuration, the system is designed for approximately 1,000 bins per hour, but can be further upgraded in terms of both performance and storage space capacity. Approx. 100 m of connecting bin conveyor technology is installed for delivering and removing empty bins or ordering bins at the order-picking stations. This means the system can deliver up to 12,000 items into the hands of flaschenpost's delivery drivers every day.

The combined AutoStore® system in Langenfeld is a pilot project for other company locations and is scheduled to go on-line in mid-2023. For HÖRMANN Intralogistics, this order is a milestone in the strategic micro-fulfilment centres sector.

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