

Press release

An AutoStore® system with 112 robots for FALKE in Schmallebenberg

Since 1895, the FALKE family business has stood for fashionable clothing made from high-quality materials, manufactured with outstanding skill and attention to detail. At seven locations worldwide, around 3,130 employees work to constantly reinvent contemporary fashion imbued with a tradition that goes back more than 125 years. At the Schmallebenberg site, HÖRMANN Intralogistics is building an AutoStore® system for storing hosiery, sportswear, men's fashion and accessories.

Dynamic and fashionable – the FALKE AutoStore® system

To customise this AutoStore® system, during the planning phase HÖRMANN Intralogistics conducted several system simulations using real data. The system configuration described below, with a total capacity of 50,000 bins measuring 649 mm x 449 mm x 330 mm (L x W x H), was determined by the need to operate 16 hours a day, along with other customer requirements and the simulation results

The AutoStore® system was installed in an existing warehouse. The overall dimensions of the aluminium grid system clad on one side is 59.2 m x 24.9 m x 5.4 m (L x W x H). The grid system consists of stacks of 16 bins, standing directly on the warehouse floor. The grid on which the 112 robots travel, cooperatively picking up bins, sorting and delivering them to the carousel ports for order picking, is mounted above the bin stacks.

The autonomous, battery-operated robots travel on four pairs of wheels arranged diagonally, enabling them to move in two directions to reach any position in the grid. They communicate with the AutoStore® controller, which issues the transport orders via WLAN. When order demand is low or their batteries are running low, the robots automatically drive themselves to one of the 84 charging stations located at the edge of the grid.

The robots work tirelessly picking and depositing items to and from the carousel ports laid out on the grid. All workstation modules are equipped such that item receipt or order picking can be carried on them at any time.

The AutoStore® system is configured for around 120 returns and 2,750 stock removal operations per hour. AutoStore® delivers the empty bins at the relevant ports for storage.

Press contact:

Marketing extern Annett Sachs
Khünburg 49 9620 Hermagor Austria
Tel: +43(0)4282 20570
mail: a.sachs@marketing-extern.com

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For order picking, the complete picking orders with the individual item picking stations are transferred to AutoStore®. With its integrated optimisation algorithms, AutoStore®, ensures maximum order processing efficiency with lead times of around 30 minutes.

The HiLIS AS WMS for maximum performance and availability

The AutoStore® controller carries out the transport orders for all robots, but has no information on the contents of the bins. HÖRMANN Intralogistics developed the HiLIS AS superior warehouse management system specifically for this purpose. It is tailored to AutoStore requirements and connected directly to the customer's HOST systems. With the HiLIS AS display, all system data and functions can be called up clearly, at any time.

The AutoStore® small parts warehouse for FALKE successfully went live in mid-July 2022.

www.hoermann-intralogistics.com, April 2023

HÖRMANN Intralogistics
Gneisenaustraße 15
80992 Munich
Tel: +49 (0)89/14 98 98-0



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<https://twitter.com/HoermannLog>

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Marketing extern Annett Sachs
Khünburg 49 9620 Hermagor Austria
Tel: +43(0)4282 20570
mail: a.sachs@marketing-extern.com