

Press release

Expansion of the SportOkay.com AutoStore® small parts warehouse in Innsbruck, with SAFELOG AGV solution for bulky items

Specialising in alpine clothing, shoes and sports equipment, the e-commerce company Sport Okay GmbH offers [over 300 top brands](#) from its on-line shop www.sportokay.com. The on-line shop's 3D view feature, for viewing and appraising your items, is a worldwide first! This sports specialists in the heart of the Alps serves hundreds of thousands of satisfied customers in Germany, Austria, Italy and 15 other countries. Given the exceptionally positive development of its on-line shop, SportOkay.com has invested in a new logistics centre in Innsbruck, with a fully automatic small parts storage system as the central picking system. HÖRMANN Intralogistics made a great impression with its AutoStore® concept, and implemented the system as general contractor. The order for the expansion was received in spring 2021.

Another innovative feature is the AGV solution by SAFELOG GmbH, which automatically supplies the picking stations with bulky items like skis, poles and similar items from the rack storage system located in the basement.

Dynamic and flexible in the smallest of spaces

The AutoStore® warehouse was built on the second floor of a new building. The workstations for incoming goods and order picking are located on the ground floor.

To customise this AutoStore® system for SportOkay, during the planning phase HÖRMANN Intralogistics conducted numerous system simulations in real time using original data.

The system was configured in two construction phases, based on customer requirements and the results of the simulations. The first phase involved the installation of 22 robots with 26,500 bins on 16 levels and the associated 6 workstations with swing ports, which enabled around 168 storage and return operations, and 4,000 picks per day. The final expansion phase effectively doubled the AutoStore® system. In the 20 m x 80 m x 5.5 m (L x W x H) store, 44 robots are now working with approx. 55,000 bins and serving items to 12 workstations with swing ports and connected bin lifts. The completed AutoStore® system now achieves around 336 storage and return operations, and 8,000 picks per day over a 10 hour shift.

In the aluminium grid system, the stacks of 16 bins each stand directly on the warehouse floor. The grid on which the 44 battery-powered, autonomous robots travel is mounted above the container stacks. The robots work cooperatively, picking up bins, sorting them and delivering them to and from the swing port workstations on the ground floor. The maximum total weight of a 649 mm x 449 mm x 330 mm (L x W x H) bins is 35 kg, with a net load of around 30 kg.

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To ensure the maximum weight, the ports carry out an overweight check. 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 any position in the grid at a speed of 3.1 m/s². 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 33 charging stations located at the edge of the grid.

The workstations for stock storage, removal and picking at SportOkay.com are located below the AutoStore[®] system on the ground floor. The items are brought to the incoming goods workstations on pallets or in boxes, where they are unpacked and stored in the system. Goods intended for picking are presented to one of the goods issue workstations by the AutoStore[®] system. The items are removed and placed in the shipping boxes by warehouse staff.

Rack storage connection by SAFELOG AGVs

Large items like skis, poles, bouldering mats, etc. are kept on shelves in the basement. Fixed slots are assigned to the racks and coded using floor-mounted RFID tags. This results in a shelf area with defined routes for the AGVs. Depending on the picking order, the mobile SAFELOG AGV L1 transport robots pick up the shelves with the required items from the storage area. The AGV with the rack can be taken directly to the picking zone and the correct work station via a console lifter. The shelves are equipped with cantilever arms or horizontal shelves. After picking, the racks are brought back to their slot by the AGV.

Orders that have already been picked are also transported from the AutoStore[®] picking stations directly to the packaging machine by specially configured Type S2 SAFELOG AGVs.

Thanks to this goods-to-person principle, the storage area can be used efficiently and the staff travel times for picking work reduced by approx. 80%. This leads to considerable increases in picking quotas.

The first stage of the AutoStore[®] small parts warehouse at SportOkay.com in Innsbruck went into operation in late summer 2018. The extension is scheduled to go into operation in autumn 2022.

Sport Okay GmbH is part of the Wintersport Tirol AG group of companies, which includes the Stubai Glacier ski area <http://www.stubaier-gletscher.com> and 15 fixed sporting goods shops.

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SPORTOKAY.COM

www.hoermann-intralogistics.com, April 2023

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