

Successful automation

within high-bay racking.

A significant rise in product demand resulting from the coronavirus pandemic prompted Béres Pharmaceuticals Ltd. to restructure the logistics location in Szolnok. The renowned pharmaceuticals manufacturer worked together with Jungheinrich Hungary and produced an automation solution to optimise internal processes in just 18 months. Individual racking systems, automated EKXa high-rack stackers, materials handling equipment and software all seamlessly interact not only to provide a major boost to the customer's warehouse capacity, but also to deliver shorter order-picking times and a high level of process reliability.

TEMPERATURE-CONTROLLED STORAGE.

There are strict requirements governing the storage and transport of medicines within the pharmaceutical industry. To meet these requirements and safeguard the shelf life of these sensitive products, Béres collaborated with Jungheinrich as a general contractor to commission a high-bay warehouse in Szolnok (Hungary) that maintains a temperature between 15 and 25°C for up to 6,000 pallets. With 9 aisles, 18 rows of racks and a usable ceiling height of 11.9 m, there is now enough capacity for reliable storage and order picking of a wide range of products, including over 100 pharmaceutical products.

Intelligent automation in the name of health.

PEOPLE AND MACHINES WORKING AS A TEAM.

At the heart of the new warehouse are three automated EKX 516a high-rack stackers, developed on the basis of a tried-and-tested Jungheinrich electric order picker. The mobile robots work hand in hand with the employees, delivering an impressive performance through their precision navigation, 360° safety sensor system and pallet and clearance detection for maximum safety when working. The integrated lithium-ion battery ensures high availability and can be charged during long and short breaks for flexibility. "Our employees are displaying a whole new level of motivation in

their work and are proud to be working with such modern technology", says Mária Kellner from Supply Chain Management at Béres.

SMART SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTING WAREHOUSE CONTROL.

Developing a stable IT structure was one of the project's main challenges, with specification, installation and testing taking almost a year to complete. Now the automation components communicate seamlessly via a logistics interface with the higher-level control and monitoring system, the Jungheinrich WCS, for maximum dynamics and transparency within the day-to-day material flow. Real-time transfer of stock improves process reliability and efficiency by preventing incorrect storing and removal operations and increasing delivery capability.

JUNGHEINRICH AS A GENERAL CONTRACTOR.

Jungheinrich implemented the automated warehouse in accordance with the customer's aspirations in a record time of just 18 months. Béres received a complete, tailored solution comprising materials handling equipment. mobile robots, industrial trucks and software systems. The many services provided included planning and realisation, as well as post-commissioning support. The price-performance ratio and the time factor were not the only reasons for awarding the contract to Jungheinrich: Béres was also impressed by the company's extensive expertise. "The automated warehouse technology puts us in the best possible position for the future", says Mária Kellner, summing up a project that was a success for everyone involved.

The heart of the new warehouse: three automated high-rack stackers of type EKX 516a, ensuring maximum efficiency and safety.







Mobile robots have enabled us to improve our loading and unloading times significantly

Mária Kellner

Head of Supply Chain, Béres Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

We speak with Mária Kellner, Head of Supply Chain, Béres Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

What are the main benefits of the automation solution and what were the greatest challenges regarding its implementation?

As well as improved order-picking times and increased process reliability within the warehouse, the strict pallet requirements have helped to improve the quality of our products and eliminate damage to the greatest possible extent. This is because the pallets undergo sensor-based contour control when they are on the materials handling equipment. If there is a mistake, it is rectified before the pallet is placed into storage. The greatest challenge was in co-ordinating and synchronising the various project areas. And, of course, the tight window of 18 months that we set for ourselves to implement the automation project.

How would you describe your experiences of operating the automated warehouse in its first months?

Though we are not yet able to draw any long-term conclusions, we can already say that the automated warehouse solution meets all our requirements in terms of loading and unloading times. All transport times have been even better than expected. Our employees are impressed with the mobile robots and are thrilled by the opportunity to take part in this development. They are also enjoying the many benefits of using the trucks in mixed operation. Redundant work and difficult manoeuvres at height are now almost fully automated. The EKXa lift height of up to 13 m allows us to fully leverage our warehouse ceiling height of 11.9 m. Overall, our experiences have been very positive.

Why did you decide on a solution from Jungheinrich and would you recommend collaborating with Jungheinrich?

As a pharmaceutical company with more than 30 years' experience, over 100 products and global sales in almost 20 countries, we place the highest demands on our internal logistics. In light of this, we sought a partner for our automation project that had the right amount of experience and had already successfully implemented similar projects as a service provider, which the wide range of Jungheinrich references clearly demonstrated. We would absolutely recommend collaboration with Jungheinrich. Comprising Hungarian, Austrian and German experts, the entire Jungheinrich team tirelessly worked on implementing our future vision as quickly as possible – and the results speak for themselves.



Customer:

Sector:

Company size:

Location:

Warehouse size:

Béres Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Pharmaceuticals

559 employees

Szolnok, Hungary

2,100 m² warehouse space

CHALLENGE

Rapid implementation of an automation solution to increase warehouse capacity, reduce order-picking times and boost efficiency for the storing and removal of finished pharmaceutical products.

JUNGHEINRICH SOLUTION

Nine-aisle, temperature-controlled narrow-aisle warehouse for 6,000 pallets, three EKX 516a automatic high-rack stackers, materials handling equipment plus software for warehouse management and control.

RESULTS

Optimised processes with significant improvement in throughput times, high level of transparency thanks to the Jungheinrich WCS, plus improved staff motivation based on the positive experiences gained in humans and machines working together.

IMPRESSIONS





Lithium-ion pallet trucks provide Béres with flexibility and efficiency in manual goods transport.