

Jungheinrich customer reference.

Avasco Industries strengthens its grip on the future.



JUNGHEINRICH

With an automated Jungheinrich high-bay warehouse as the basis for further growth.

With the commissioning of an automated high-bay warehouse from Jungheinrich, Avasco Industries, based in Diksmuide, is taking major steps towards further optimisation. From lean production, reduced peak loads and increased delivery reliability to tighter agreements with carriers, the outcome is clear.

60 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.

The West Flemish company Avasco Industries has specialised in sheet metal working for over 60 years. The company from Diksmuide has three divisions: Shelving, Subcontracting and Bulk and Water Storage. The latter two supply products such as bolted water tanks for sprinkler systems, hermetically sealed doors for nuclear power plants and shelves for warehouse fitters. Covering approximately 50% of all activities, the shelving division is the largest. The department produces metal storage systems for residential through to semi-industrial use.

The steady rhythm of punching and cutting sounds like a calm heartbeat throughout the long production halls of Avasco Industries in Diksmuide. It is here that the West Flemish company primarily produces the metal storage systems for its shelving division. Large rolls of sheet material are ready to be transformed into the well-known racks that can be assembled without tools and purchased from almost every DIY chain in Europe.

INTERNAL LOGISTICS BOTTLENECK.

"We produce approximately 1.3 million units annually, but it could be many more," says Managing Director Jan Van Houtte as another complete pallet of racks comes from the palletising robot. "Our capacity is 3 million units and, given the increasing market demand, that is not an unrealistic target. The bottleneck was our own internal logistics; we simply didn't have enough storage space."

Storage capacity is crucial for Avasco Industries to be able to move from extreme peak production to manageable continuous production for stock. The peaks are the result of the highly seasonal demand from the market and the high delivery obligations that customers stipulate in their contracts.

"Thanks to the automated high-bay warehouse from Jungheinrich, we can make much better use of our production capacity of 3 million racks per year."

A WELL-CONSIDERED CHOICE FOR JUNGHEINRICH.

After extensive market comparison and reference visits, two providers remained who were asked the same two questions: Are you prepared to sell only the study, even if that means the project might not go ahead? And, can we fix the current price of steel for six months? Jan Van Houtte: "The steel market was extremely turbulent in 2023, so we wanted that certainty. Jungheinrich stood out thanks to its well-founded concept and clear agreements. That gave us the confidence to embark on this journey together."

01
The three input/output lanes form the physical transition area between production and the warehouse.

02
The two 33.5 m-high stacker cranes are equipped with a double-deep horizontal shuttle car so that pallets measuring 1,200 x 2,400 mm also fit into the system.





“ Thanks to this new storage capacity, we have been able to decouple internal logistics from production. This offers us numerous benefits. ”

Jan Van Houtte
Managing Director, Avasco

Jungheinrich built a fully automated high-bay warehouse with 22,000 pallet locations and was responsible for the entire internal logistics system: from racking and Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS) to conveyor technology and the warehouse control system (WCS), ensuring seamless integration with Avasco Industries' ERP and WMS. "What's special is that we use pallets with four different base sizes and two different heights here," explains Joppe Jacoby, Manager of Automation Solutions at Jungheinrich Belgium. "This is possible in part because we produce the stacker cranes and shuttles ourselves and can build them exactly to specification. In addition, Jungheinrich has extensive experience within Europe with automated turnkey projects like this."

“From design to construction and service, including automated systems, Jungheinrich supplies everything from a single source.”

GREATER EFFICIENCY AND MORE CONTROL.

The new Jungheinrich high-bay warehouse effortlessly accommodates pallets of 800, 1,000, 1,800 and 2,400 x 1,200 mm, with heights of 1,400 and 2,000 mm. The deep storage system has a

maximum of 10 locations and offers a capacity of up to 57 pallets per hour. "Each pallet is SSCC-labelled and can then be transported to the customer," continues Jan Van Houtte during our tour of the warehouse and the shipping department. Production has become leaner and runs larger batches without any time loss due to changeovers. Delivery from stock means greater continuity and reliability for customers. Interim machine maintenance can be planned more effectively and the substantial production peaks have been levelled out. Avasco can now also focus more than before on the development and production of new products, such as painted racks, which are currently a clear trend.

FOUNDATION FOR FURTHER AUTOMATION.

In addition, the automated warehouse is a step towards further optimisation within the internal logistics of Avasco Industries. The supply of pallets to the warehouse is still partly carried out using forklifts, but Automated Guided Vehicle Systems are gradually taking over this task. Transport from the warehouse to the shipping department is also increasingly unmanned, using AGVs. Jan Van Houtte: "Up to 20 loads depart every day and for this we have 10 staging lanes and 4 docks. To automatically have the right pallets ready for the right transport, it is important to make even more precise time arrangements with carriers. We putting the finishing touches to this right now."

THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE



Customer:

Avasco Industries

Sector:

Sheet metal working

Location:

Diksmuide, Netherlands

CHALLENGE

Temporary off-site storage provided only a partial solution and proved to be inefficient over time. Avasco therefore decided to look for the solution on its own site. The available area was, however, limited to 2,500 m².

JUNGHEINRICH SOLUTION

To create sufficient storage capacity, the company had to build upwards. The challenge: maximum storage on a minimal footprint, while maintaining flexibility and room for future growth.

RESULTS

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IMPRESSIONS

The shelving division at Avasco Industries produces a variety of storage systems from steel rolls for the residential and semi-industrial markets



Avasco's new high-bay warehouse.



The new high-bay warehouse under construction: an area of 2,500 m² will soon provide space for 22,000 pallet locations.