Jungheinrich customer reference

Sustainable warehouse transformation at Georg Fischer.

JUNGHEINRICH

Increased efficiency through automation.

As a global market leader in the field of flow solutions, Georg Fischer (GF) relies on perfectly functioning material handling. To modernise the ageing pallet high-bay warehouse at the Seewis location, the manual system was transformed into a fully automated, modern warehouse. Jungheinrich's concept was convincing in every respect – especially in terms of efficiency and process reliability. Ergonomically designed workplaces with order-picking assistance systems also reduce the error rate and increase employee satisfaction.

HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY IN A SMALLER SPACE.

With around 200 employees, GF produces approximately 1.3 million plastic valves and 2 million plug-in fittings annually at its Swiss location in Seewis, in a product range comprising more than 17,000 different items. The new basis for this is a 4-aisle automated small-parts warehouse with 60,000 storage locations and a 1-aisle pallet high-bay warehouse with 2,400 storage locations. Thanks to the taller construction (19.4 metres instead of 17.6 metres), the required warehouse floor area could be reduced from 1,472 m^2 to 1,240 m^2.

Higher, faster, more sustainable.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CONCEPT.

Sustainability is an integral part of GF's corporate strategy. This is also reflected in the selection of components for the new automation solution. Stacker cranes with SuperCaps as energy storage make it possible to store the energy generated during braking and make it available for further use. This enables the STC to eliminate the enormous energy consumption peaks that occur during acceleration and braking.

SAFE HUMAN-MACHINE OPERATION.

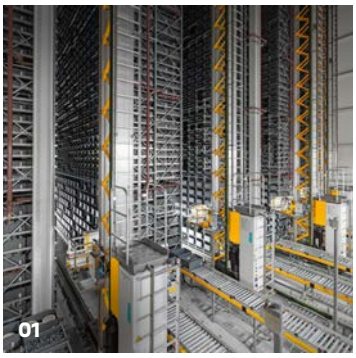
In addition to the high-bay racking and small-parts warehouse, Jungheinrich's overall solution also included conveyor technology, industrial trucks, software, as well as service and support services to ensure availability. "Thanks to pre-commissioning and reliable just-in-time supply, our processes are safer, we work more transparently and can identify bottlenecks at an early stage," says Nico Bleisch, Operational Excellence Manager at Georg Fischer. The modern design of the system, combined with clear, system-guided processes, also reduces the risk of accidents and enables safe collaboration in mixed operation.

ACTIVE CHANGE MANAGEMENT.

Ergonomically designed workplaces, height-adjustable workstations, ball transfer tables and pick-to-light and put-to-light systems make work easier, while training in the use of the new system enabled a smooth transition to the automated warehouse environment. To avoid jeopardising the company's growth trajectory, the system- and process-related change in warehouse logistics was carried out without interrupting ongoing production. Commissioning was completed on time and, after the successful completion of the project, the customer expressed complete satisfaction with the resulting solution, the costs and the timely implementation.

01
Stacker cranes with SuperCaps as energy storage support the sustainability strategy by storing braking energy and making it reusable.

02
Ergonomically designed workstations with order-picking assistance systems reduce error rates and increase employee satisfaction.


01


02

> **Thanks to Jungheinrich's automation solution, we now work much more efficiently and with greater process reliability.**

Nico Bleisch
Operational Excellence Manager,
Georg Fischer Piping Systems Ltd

A word with Nico Bleisch, Operational Excellence Manager, Georg Fischer Piping Systems Ltd.

What were the main reasons for the modernisation of the warehouse in Seewis?
The existing warehouse was technically outdated and prone to malfunctions. Our main goal was to automate and optimise our processes with the new high-bay racking and small-parts warehouse. Furthermore, we wanted to expand our production to create new space for future company growth. Another motivation was the improvement of our energy balance within our material handling. Since we produce very high quantities, we naturally also have correspondingly high power consumption. The introduction of innovative solutions and technologies within our manufacturing processes helps us to reduce our CO_2 footprint and achieve our sustainability goals.

To what extent have logistics processes improved since the modernisation?
Despite warehouse modernisation and process automation, our electricity consumption has not increased, which we regard as a very positive outcome. Our automated transports are coordinated by the Jungheinrich WMS on an order-specific and sequential basis, which virtually eliminates incorrect picks. This allows us to work much more efficiently. The pick-to-light system, integrated counting trolleys and visual plausibility checks also help to minimise the risk of operator error. Furthermore, storing our items in the automated small-parts warehouse provides us with finer inventory management, shorter access times and more ergonomic order picking, which has a positive effect on the satisfaction of our employees.

Are you satisfied with the collaboration and would you recommend Jungheinrich?
Jungheinrich provided us with a complete solution, comprising rack, stacker cranes, conveyor technology, software and service from a single source. We felt we had a competent material handling provider with comprehensive expertise in complex new-build projects at our side. We were also impressed by the value for money. The collaboration, from the quotation phase through to implementation, was always cooperative and reliable. Thanks to the close on-site support, implementation during ongoing operation was successful, so that stable performance was achieved after just a few weeks. On the basis of this positive experience, we would definitely recommend Jungheinrich.

THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

+GF+

Customer:	Georg Fischer Piping Systems Ltd
Sector:	Piping systems and solutions
Company size:	15,700 employees in total, 190 at the Seewis location
Location:	Seewis, Switzerland
Warehouse size:	22,000 m² of floor space

CHALLENGE

Warehouse modernisation with the construction of a new pallet high-bay warehouse and automated small-parts warehouse, as well as the transformation from manual to automated processes during ongoing production operation.

JUNGHEINRICH SOLUTION

4-aisle automated small-parts warehouse with 60,000 storage locations and Jungheinrich STC stacker cranes with SuperCaps, 1-aisle pallet high-bay warehouse with 2,400 storage locations, conveyor technology, Jungheinrich WMS and 24/7 support.

RESULTS

Increased efficiency and delivery reliability, high transparency in order picking and material flow, increased sustainability, optimised work processes and improved employee satisfaction.

IMPRESSIONS

The pick-to-light system, integrated counting trolleys and visual plausibility checks help to minimise the risk of errors.

Thanks to pre-picking and reliable just-in-time supply, processes are safer and more transparent, allowing bottlenecks to be identified at an early stage.

The automated transports are coordinated by the Jungheinrich WMS on an order-specific and sequential basis, effectively eliminating incorrect picks.

Thanks to the greater height of the fully automated warehouse, the required storage footprint could be reduced.

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