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Navigating the production floors autonomously: Jungheinrich automates material handling at Tsubakimoto Europe in Dordrecht

- **More ergonomic, more efficient transport processes within the existing narrow-aisle warehouse**
- **Seamless material flow connecting goods receipt, warehouse, production area and dispatch**
- **Uninterrupted mixed-traffic operation thanks to 3D obstacle scanner**
- **Smooth WMS integration ensures full process transparency**

With two mobile robots from Jungheinrich, Tsubaki is automating internal goods transport at its European headquarters in Dordrecht. The solution connects goods receipt, a narrow-aisle warehouse, a production area and a new outbound conveyor into a seamless material flow.

Hamburg / Dordrecht – Tsubakimoto Europe B.V. has entrusted Jungheinrich to automate internal goods transport at its Dordrecht site. The Dutch headquarters of the Japanese chain manufacturer will deploy two EKS 215a automated guided vehicles to connect five stations across a travel path of approximately 130 metres. The existing manual narrow-aisle warehouse remains in operation and will be integrated step by step into the automated material flow.

Two EKS 215a vehicles serve 98 positions across five stations: a goods-receipt buffer with 25 locations, 48 pick-and-drop (P&D) stations at the racking, a production area with fifteen inbound and eight outbound locations and two positions on the new outbound conveyor. The vehicles are designed for two-shift, 17/5 operation. Lithium-ion batteries with an automatic charging station ensure uninterrupted operation. A 3D obstacle scanner

Jungheinrich Aktiengesellschaft
Friedrich-Ebert-Damm 129 · 22047 Hamburg, Germany · Phone +49 40 6948-0 · Fax +49 40 6948-1777
info@jungheinrich.com · www.jungheinrich.com

Supervisory Board Andreas Umbach, Chairman
Board of Management Dr. Lars Brzoska, Chairman · Nadine Despineux · Dr. Tobias Harzer · Maik Manthey
Group Headquarters Hamburg · **Registration Court** Hamburg Commercial Register 44 885
Bank Commerzbank AG Hamburg (BIC: COBADEFFXXX) IBAN: DE57 2004 0000 0630 7300 00; (BLZ 200 400 00) 6 307 300
Deutsche Bank AG Hamburg (BIC: DEUTDEHHXXX) IBAN: DE96 2007 0000 0042 9977 00; (BLZ 200 700 00) 0 429 977

maintains safety during mixed-traffic operation alongside manual industrial trucks and pedestrians.

Automated to customer specification

As the load carriers at the site were not designed for automated transport, Jungheinrich advised Tsubaki on the design of custom load carriers – a prerequisite for enabling all five types to be transported automatically. Project preparation was complemented by a workshop on the Jungheinrich Logistics Interface, through which the EKS 215a vehicles are connected to the customer's warehouse management system. The integration of the new outbound conveyor closes the process chain from goods receipt to dispatch.

"Automating our transport processes is the logical next step for us to remain competitive and relieve our employees of physically demanding routine tasks. The fact that Jungheinrich supported us as a partner throughout – including the development of the custom load carriers and the WMS integration – and with only minimum interruption of our ongoing operations during implementation, has reinforced our decision,2 said Jim Nederhand, Logistics Manager, Tsubakimoto Europe B.V.

"Many companies hesitate when it comes to automation because they fear having to significantly restrict or halt their ongoing operations in the process. The Tsubaki project demonstrates that this need not be the case. Even an organically grown warehouse with heterogeneous load carriers can be automated gradually and without interruption," said Christiaan Middelbrink, Project Manager Technical Sales at Jungheinrich Nederland.

Commissioning of the system is planned for early 2027.

If you have any queries, please contact:

Dr Benedikt Nufer
Head of Communications & Public Affairs
Tel.: +49 40 6948 3489
Mobile: +49 151 2779 1245
Mail: benedikt.nufer@jungheinrich.de

About Jungheinrich:

As a globally leading provider in material handling, Jungheinrich has been advancing the development of innovative and sustainable products and solutions for material flows for more than 70 years. The listed family-owned business is committed to being a global partner offering value-adding solutions for material flows and thus creating the warehouse of the future. In 2025, Jungheinrich and its workforce of over 21,000 employees generated revenue of €5.5 billion. The Jungheinrich global network covers twelve production plants and its own direct sales and service companies in over 40 countries. The share is listed on the SDAX.