



Watermann GmbH & Co. KG, Dortmund.

**Custom-made logistics
systems for the optimisation
and facilitation of
intralogistics processes.**

**JUNGHEINRICH**

Project:

Watermann GmbH & Co. KG, Dortmund

Sector:

Screws and fastening systems

Assignment:

Set up an automated small-parts warehouse
and ergonomic workstations

Project duration:

01.2012 – 11.2012

Services:

- Automatic small-parts warehouse
- Warehouse Control System
- Ergonomic order-picking stations
- Conveyor system
- Manual narrow-aisle warehouse

Most important results:

- Ergonomic workstations
- Significant increase in efficiency
- Lower error rate

Continuous transformation for steady growth

Since it was founded over 80 years ago in Dortmund, Watermann GmbH & Co. KG has developed from a regional commercial enterprise for mining products into an international dealer for connection and fastening technology. In sales the company relies on efficiency and quality to ensure rapid delivery within 24 hours. The company headquarters are in Dortmund. There are also two additional branches in Poland and Hungary.

"Goods to operator" instead of "operator to goods"

To automate warehouse processes, an automated small-parts warehouse was implemented at the headquarters in Dortmund with 25 rack levels, 40,000 storage locations, 10,000 storage channels and Warehouse Control System. An automatic solution allows for regular relocations of less frequently picked containers to rear levels.

Customer-specific solution

Watermann was looking for a special solution with the most space-saving storage possible for its containers and efficient order picking, thereby allowing for delivery of its products within 24 hours. The order-picking stations also had to be designed ergonomically.

The requirement

The requirement was to design a system that offers options for expansion so it will be fit for the future. Special attention was also paid to work ergonomics. This was all the more important as unusually heavy containers are handled by Watermann in the small-parts warehouse with two different dimensions (600 x 400 mm and 400 x 300 mm).

The solution

Optimum restructuring of intralogistics through an automated small-parts warehouse, Warehouse Control System and ergonomic order-picking stations

After a material flow analysis, results-based planning and project planning, the company restructured its intralogistics. We delivered an automated small-parts warehouse and the Control System. With a special focus on ergonomics, four new order-picking stations with the following configuration were set up:

- Label printer
- Built-in checkweigher, counting scale
- Monitor and handheld scanner set up

The delivery specification also included the conveyor systems to move items to and from storage and a manual narrow-aisle warehouse.

The statement

„The automated small-parts warehouse makes our intra-logistics processes easier and forms the desired basis for additional growth. We process nearly 80 percent of our orders through the automated small-parts warehouse. We had planned for 75 percent. The only parts we still order pick manually from pallets are heavy parts. It is also possible to expand the automated small-parts warehouse to almost 60,000 container slots with a third aisle,“ says Managing Director Peter Esser (Dipl.-Ing.). Jungheinrich was especially impressive in terms of special solutions: „We placed requests with ten providers and ultimately decided on Jungheinrich. They provided us with a special solution offering large containers that can be filled with goods weighing up to 70 kilograms and picked up two at a time by the rack operating equipment. The precondition for this was load handling attachments with greater load capacity for the rack operating equipment.“



Bernd Pöche,
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