



Automated Guided Vehicle in Operation at Hero España. Tailor-made automatic solution provides more productivity and safety in the warehouse.

JUNGHEINRICH

Project:

Hero España, Alcantarilla, Spain

Industry:

Food (production of foodstuffs)

Task:

Modernisation with Automated Guided Vehicle System

Project duration:

08.2010 – 09.2011

Services:

- Automated Guided Vehicle vertical order picker EKS 210a
- Transport Manager software Traffic Manager

Most important results:

- Efficiency and productivity increase
- Speeds up transport tasks and increases flexibility
- Reduces error rates in all intralogistic processes
- Greater safety
- Less work for warehouse personnel

Desire for innovation and renewal creates decisive competitive advantage

The quest for innovation and quality has always been one of the guiding principles of Hero España, a leading producer of baby food, jams and marmalades. The desire for innovation and renewal inherent in this process constantly drives the company onward as it searches for highly efficient technological solutions. The goal is to facilitate the optimisation and acceleration of intralogistic process management to be able to adapt the company's position on the market and with consumers at any time.

The optimum solution must consist of a highly precise, independent and maintenance-friendly machine

Given the need to relieve warehouse personnel of constant repetitive tasks, the option of using an Automated Guided Vehicle System was considered. The system should offer a high level of flexibility and fast response times and would be easy to adapt to future additions or new tasks.

They chose the ideal technology partner with in-house know-how:

The decision required a provider who could a) take on the role of a strategic partner and b) guarantee the service quality required for this type of technology, much of it at the very beginning of the project. The order picking area can be reorganised and improved with the most advanced technology currently available on the market. The small dimension of the machine is also a critical factor.

The requirement

Speed up and optimise regular intralogistic processes

The main tasks of the new Automated Guided Vehicle:

- a) Performing various frequent, repetitive tasks on predefined travel routes automatically and at high speed.
- b) Processing transport, stacking and retrieval tasks efficiently with Euro and industrial pallets.
- c) Moving pallets from the automatic silo (capacity: 31,000 pallets) to spaces in block storage warehouse and from there to the dispatch area (capacity: 1,000 pallets).

The main advantage: The Automated Guided Vehicle System performs routine tasks, which lightens the workload of warehouse employees. They can then instead devote their attention and concentration to other more complex processes, which are more varied and interesting for them.

The solution

The Automated Guided Vehicle EKS 210a based on a series fork lift truck

The Automated Guided Vehicle (AGV) at Hero is a vertical order picker produced in series with an added automation package and Traffic Manager Transport software. The AGV receives commands from the Warehouse Management System (WMS) through the wireless data system and performs them independently. It is guided along predefined travel routes by the Traffic Manager, which uses its laser navigation system and position reflectors for this purpose. When the AGV has completed a command, it sends wireless confirmation to the WMS. This confirmation includes complete information about the process and any problems that occurred, for example obstructions along the way.

Soon after the system was placed in operation at Hero, increased efficiency in intralogistic processes was noted as well as a considerable reduction of errors throughout transport management.

Customer statement

Flexibility and independence bring significant increase in productivity

"We chose Jungheinrich's automation solution because the small dimensions of the machine allowed us to reorganise the order picking area more efficiently. They also offered us the most advanced technology on the market" explains Juan Francisco García Gambín, Warehouse Manager of HERO España the advantages of the Automated Guided Vehicle "Since we placed Jungheinrich's AGV in operation, productivity has increased noticeably from the very first day due to the independent way the machine performs its tasks. In terms of safety, the employees who work with the system have no concerns at all thanks to the personal protection system with which the machine is equipped."



Juan Francisco García Gambín.
Warehouse Manager of HERO España S.A., Alcantarilla, Spain.

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