

Press release

New growth for the Giesswein Walkwaren AutoStore® warehouse in Austria

Giesswein Walkwaren AG is a long-established Tyrolean family business, now in its third generation. With its holistic approach and specialist knowledge steeped in tradition, the Company manufactures truly modern, sustainable and functional footwear and apparel from hand-selected wool of the highest traditional quality, and has won the place of Europe's leading manufacturer of 100% pure new wool clothing. At the Company's existing warehousing facility in Brixlegg, HÖRMANN Intralogistics has implemented a custom-designed AutoStore® finished goods storage system, to support the Company's constantly growing e-commerce and trade business. Now the system is set to get even bigger.

Concept

We worked closely with the Company at the design stage, and after several system simulations using real data, we finally came up with a custom AutoStore® system configuration with 41 robots serving 17,500 bins over nine levels. The overall height of the AutoStore® Grid was obviously limited to the existing 4.6 metre high warehouse. With overall dimensions 26.1 x 30.4 x 3.1 m (L x W x H), the single-double grid is panelled on two sides.

With the new extension it will be possible to guarantee 200 storage and 1,560 retrieval operations per hour using 6 carousel and 3 conveyor ports.

The 17,500 bins, in standard 649 mm x 449 mm x 330 mm format (L x W x H) have an individual load capacity of around 30 kg.

Future expansions will see 51 robots supplying the carousel workstations, with a total of 39 charging stations distributed around the grid perimeter to keep the robots moving.

Maximum flexibility and efficiency

In principle, all workstations are configured in such a way that incoming goods and outgoing orders can be carried out on them at any time. The incoming goods are still delivered to the workstation by the warehouse staff.

In the grid system, the bins are placed directly on the store floor in stacks of 9. Above the stacks, the autonomous battery-powered robots travel on the single double-grid rail system, working together, picking and resorting bins and serving them to the carousel ports. The bins themselves can be partitioned, so several items can be carried by each one.

On four pairs of diagonally configured casters, the robots can move in either direction to reach

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Press release

any point on the grid. They're all linked by Wi-Fi to the AutoStore® controller, which assigns transport orders to the individual robots. Whenever the workload is low or their batteries are running low, without needing orders the robots take themselves to the nearest available charging stations at the edge of the grid. The AutoStore® controller itself resides on the connected service platform.

AutoStore® is capable of transferring complete picking orders (task groups) with individual item picking (tasks). With its integrated optimisation algorithms giving lead times in the order of 30 minutes, AutoStore® guarantees maximum order processing efficiency. Items that belong together are stored in the shipping cartons, and the cartons have barcodes that effectively "marry" them to the shipping order numbers. Future developments include plans to connect the picking workstations to the outgoing goods area by conveyor.

A special feature of the system is the AutoStore® port, located directly inside the Giesswein woollen goods shop, giving the shop direct access to the warehouse.

The AutoStore® system at Giesswein Walkwaren in Brixlegg came on line in July 2020 and underwent its second extension in autumn 2022.

"The new AutoStore system makes our picking processes far more efficient, making life easier for all our staff. A win-win for the whole team."

Mag. Markus Giesswein, owner

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