

Warehouse Insights

# ASRS Frequently Asked Questions



# Your top ASRS questions answered

Researching automated storage and retrieval systems (ASRS) starts with asking a lot of questions. To help you out, we've gathered some of the most frequently asked questions we hear from potential customers, just like yourself. The answers come from our material handling experts who have been in the business for years, helping facilities to squeeze the most potential and revenue out of their operations.



## How much do automated storage and retrieval systems cost?

**This is our number one question – and we've dedicated a whole blog post to it: [Calculating the Cost of ASRS: 5 Contributing Factors.](#)**

The cost of a machine is dependent on system size, environment, stored products, machine controls, software and required throughput. For a general idea, vertical carousel modules start at roughly \$70,000, horizontal carousel modules at \$75,000 and vertical lift modules at \$85,000. The labor reduction, space savings and picking efficiencies you gain with ASRS often provides an ROI of under 18 months. We'd be happy to take a look at what it is you're trying to accomplish and make a solution recommendation that would help you reach your goals.

## How do I get the product out of the unit if the power is out?

Unfortunately, if the facility loses power, there's generally not much you can do. You don't want your people picking in the dark anyway – it's a safety hazard. If it's important to get parts from the system even in a power outage (such as a hospital), a redundant power supply can easily be put into place.

## Why automate now? Let's wait.

Because every day that goes by without implementing an automated solution is another day you lose the ability to realize the savings or additional revenue generated from it. The money you are spending every day is more than an automated solution will cost you on a daily basis. Most companies using automated storage have seen an ROI in 18 months or less.



**Run the numbers yourself!** Implementing ASRS will save money, reduce your footprint and improve efficiencies.

## How many parts fit in a machine and how many machines do I need?

To answer this, we need to have someone come give you an estimate specific to your application. It all depends on the size, weight and quantity of what you're looking to store. The types of products you're storing will help determine the type of machine you need. To give you a rough idea, typically 60 sections of shelving fit into one 23-foot tall vertical lift module.

At your request, we can come to your facility and measure all your cubic storage, racking square footage and ceiling clear height. Then we can tell you how many units your operations require, the number of trays/carriers in each unit, how much of your product will fit into the system and if you have room for growth. If necessary, we can perform this evaluation virtually. With your help measuring, our material handling experts can spec a solution for you.

## How does the operator know which item to select?

Using a combination of software and pick to light technology we will help you configure locations for your parts. The inventory management software will know exactly where every item is in the machine. Upon retrieval, pick to light technology will pinpoint the exact location to be picked - increasing your picking accuracy up to 99.9%.

## I'm running out of storage space. How does an ASRS give me more storage capacity in my existing facility?

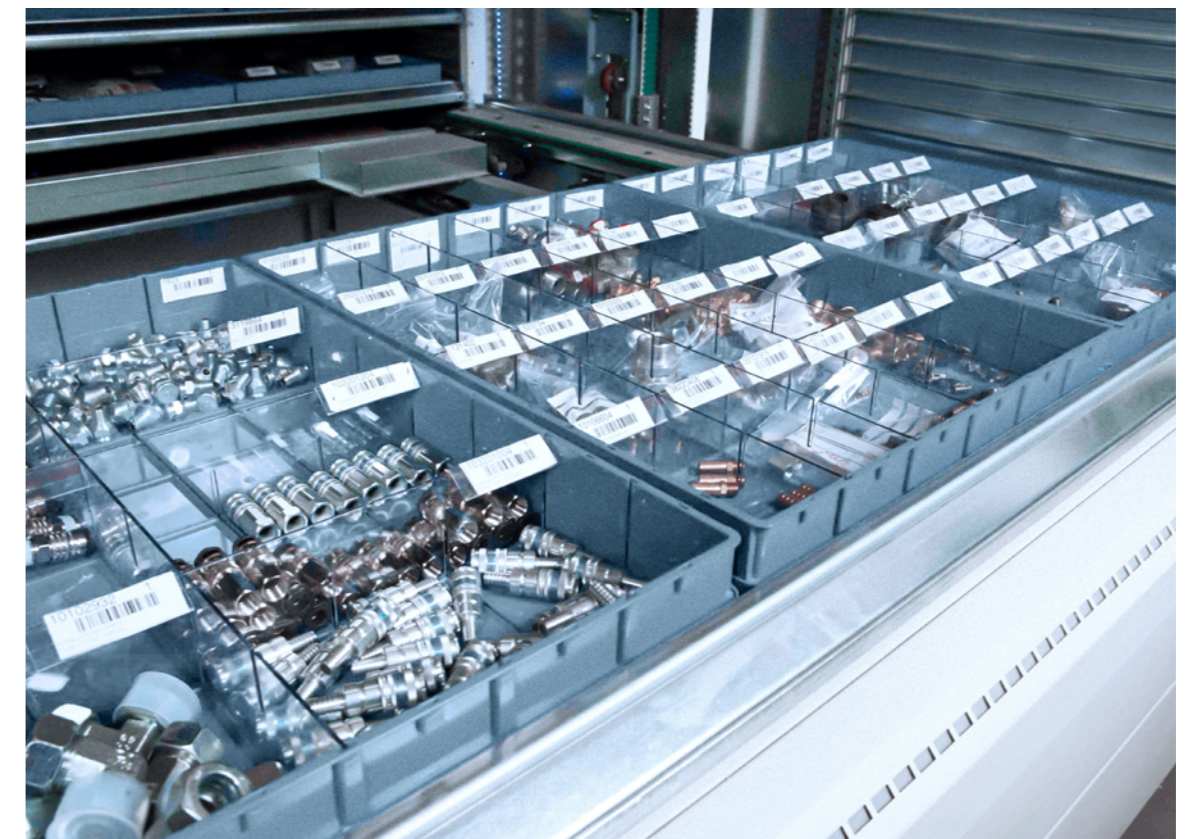
Optimize the space you have! In static shelving you will never get over 50% space utilization due to the aisle and reach in space it requires. Automated storage condenses wasted aisle space and utilizes the complete floor to ceiling height to make the most of the space you have. The integrated inventory management software manages the storage locations – maximizing capacity in a smaller footprint. On average, automation frees up to 85% of your currently occupied floor space.

## How will an ASRS improve picking accuracy?

Integrating pick to light technology will help machine operators identify pick locations using a light directed LED navigator system. Pick to light technology increases pick accuracy up to 99.9%. Pick verification can give accuracy a further boost by requiring an operator to barcode scan the item to confirm picks and puts.

## Can ASRS integrate with our existing ERP/WMS software?

Yes, automated storage systems can integrate with most major ERP/WMS systems. Here is a list of some of the systems we have worked with: SAP, BAAN, Oracle, MS Dynamics, JDE, Maximo, Epicor. We offer flexible integration tools out of the box, allowing us to deliver integration to ERP/WMS systems ranging from the most well-known to those built in house by our customers. Contact us to learn our full integration capabilities.



# About Kardex

Kardex is a global industry partner for intralogistics solutions and a leading supplier of automated storage solutions and material handling systems. The Group consists of two entrepreneurially managed divisions, Kardex Remstar and Kardex Mlog.

Kardex Remstar develops, produces, and maintains dynamic storage and retrieval systems and Kardex Mlog offers integrated materials handling systems and automated high-bay warehouses.

The two divisions are partners for their customers over the entire life cycle of a product or solution. This begins with the assessment of customer requirements and continues through planning, realization, and maintenance of customer-specific systems. It ensures a high level of availability combined with low total cost of ownership and operation.

