

Case Study

Boosted Warehouse Performance





Speed & accuracy with automatic inbound

Customer and task

In 2019, the ATS Group faced inefficiencies and decided to replace static shelving and traditional warehouse picking with a cutting-edge intralogistics solution. The organization needed to restructure its main distribution center, focusing on delivering electrical components to group projects and end customers.

ATS Group commissioned Kardex to optimize order fulfillment, increase throughput, reduce floor space, and improve operators' performance. After an initial analysis, the Kardex team tailored a solution with eight VBM's, pick-to-light and put-to-light technology, Kardex JMIF software, automatic conveyor connection, and lifts between the zones.

Solution

The VBM is an affordable mini-load system where standard Euro bins can be stored and automatically handled. It seamlessly integrates with existing conveyor and host systems, connecting automatic material flow to the WMS/ERP via Kardex JMIF.

During the automatic inbound, the system assigns articles in bins and transfers items automatically to the VBM's via access openings. The goods-to-person principle provides fast and accurate retrieval and picking. Pick-to-light and put-to-light guide operators to select the correct items for picking and bins for putting. Conveyors transfer picked items to the sorter zone for packing.

The capacity of the Kardex solution is 5,760 bins and provides storage for approximately 5,000 items. The new solution reduced operation space from 950 m² to 400 m². It increased throughput from 500 to 900 orders, and reduced operators from 6 to 2.



Case at a glance

Maximized efficiency for increasing order volume

ATS Group (Belgium) is a multidisciplinary technology group with a focus on electrical & automation projects, mechatronics, HVAC & energy solutions, and the wholesale of electrical components. With rapid business expansion, the company required efficient order management and improved performance while saving space. To achieve this goal, Kardex designed a system with eight Vertical Buffer Modules (VBMs).

Nearly
**doubled per-
formance**

Saved
**50% +
floor space**

Labor reduced
by two-thirds



Scope of delivery



8 Kardex Miniload-in-a-Box* from the product family Vertical Buffer Module with turntables for order picking and automatic conveyor technology for replenishment
W: 2,350 mm | D: 10,450 mm | H: 6,500 mm



Pick-to-light & put-to-light technology



Kardex JMIF software (middle-ware/gateway software to WMS)



Contact a specialist