

Case Study

# Zone Picking with ASRS





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## Customer and task

"Our parts promise to our customers presents an operational challenge as we have to inventory parts that are only picked once a year. To meet our parts guarantee we must be able to find it," says Doug Ward, Logistics Manager, "and the system we had in place made that difficult."

Previously, Kubota inventoried parts in two zones: a mezzanine shelving area for manual picking and a hi-bay shelving area using man-up trucks to access parts. The productivity rates and ergonomic risks prompted Kubota to look for a more efficient automated solution.

## Solution

Kubota now uses a pick and pass strategy with three picking zones, two of which are automated for maximum efficiency. Six HCMs manage the fast-moving SKUs; four Kardex Shuttles manage the medium moving SKUs, and the slower moving SKUs are stored in hi-bay shelving.

The complete system was purchased and implemented in phases. In the first phase, Kubota purchased six HCMs to replace a three-story mezzanine in coordination with a building relocation. The HCMs provided ergonomic picking and a dramatic increase in productivity.

In the second phase, Kubota added another work zone using four Kardex Shuttles. "We were out of space and were considering an expansion," says Ward, "The Kardex Shuttles allowed us to free up floor-space and avoid a costly building expansion."

## Case at a glance

### How we took our customer from task to solution

With a reputation for groundbreaking tractor and utility vehicles, Kubota's parts promise is what keeps customers coming back. Kubota's 60,000 square foot part center in Markham, Ontario has steadily grown to over 78,000 SKUs. The facility utilizes a pick and pass strategy with six Horizontal Carousel Modules (HCMs) and four Vertical Lift Module Shuttle with the Kardex Power Pick System inventory management software.

**Increased**  
productivity  
by 90%

**Saved**  
83% floor space

**Improved**  
worker  
ergonomics



### Scope of delivery



6 Horizontal Carousel Modules



4 Vertical Lift Modules Kardex Shuttle



Kardex Power Pick System inventory management software