

Case Study

Automating for the Future with ASRS





Automating the process

Customer and task

Van Meter distributes electrical parts to Iowa's contractor, commercial, OEM, systems integrators, and energy markets. Their 28,000 m² Distribution Center acts as the primary hub for picking and packing orders for their 12 satellite locations and servicing over-the-counter customers.

Due to rapid growth, Van Meter's lines per year grew 20%, peaking at over 1.08 million. Continued growth and delivery of quality customer service depended on a solution which better utilized existing space and increased order picking efficiency and accuracy.

Solution

As part of a larger warehouse automation project, Van Meter rerouted orders via conveyor into new picking zones featuring 18 Vertical Lift Modules from Kardex Remstar. The Kardex Shuttles are arranged into 4 work zones each integrated with pick-to-light technology and Kardex Power Pick System to enable batch picking within each zone.

Now fulfilling orders using a warehouse-wide pick and pass fulfillment strategy, Van Meter has increased picking throughput by 25%, reduced labor costs by 21%, and increased accuracy to an astounding 99.99%.

Case at a glance

Automation helps Van Meter match rapid growth

Van Meter is an electrical parts distributor in Cedar Rapids, IA. Recent growth had quickly outmatched their existing space – inventory became more difficult to manage, storage space was limited, and orders were harder to process.

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Scope of delivery



18 Kardex Shuttles organized into
4 Picking Zones holding 2,400 SKUs



Kardex Power Pick System inventory management software



Dual tray extraction