

Modern Warehouse Management with LFS 400 at Noerpel Logistik

Impossible is nothing



As the requirements differ from customer to customer, flexibility is a decisive qualification in the transport industry. However, the according logistic services have to be realized quickly and reliably in any case. For Frank Rudat, director of the C. E. Noerpel Logistik GmbH + Co. KG, infrastructure and know-how are the keys to a successful business. The company sets a high value on strengthening their performance with the growing requirements in the industry. "For us, the focused application of modern technologies and high-performance information systems has a capital importance", the responsible manager for logistics, emphasizes. The capability of reacting promptly to customer requirements is gaining more and more importance.

Ensuring and extending competitiveness with LFS 400

Noerpel's main intention for the introduction of the new system was an increase in competitiveness. This was achieved by integrating both external and internal applications, especially the SAP ERP system, and an optimal depiction of existing processes. Other positive points for the logistics enterprise were the increase of warehouse performance, an improvement of readiness for delivery and the optimization of routes with a reduction of processing times and production costs. "Today, 30 commercial and 85 industrial users at our four sites use LFS 400 without any problems, from a computer and fork lifts to radio frequency devices", the IT manager explains. At the headquarters, Noerpel runs a central data processing centre, where, among others, systems of the IBM i-Series are used as platforms.

Establishment of customer-specific procedures for high flexibility

The flexibility, from which the customers of an enterprise profit as well, becomes clear in the establishment of individual processes with their own workflow. This way, an integrated shipping management was created for Britax, a producer of child seats. One of the processes is order composition. In the core of the composition there are "locomotives" in form of an identical item or an entire pallet. All other peaces are then assigned to the order so that it can be completed quickly and simply. For the customer Gardena, who has recently outsourced their logistics into the subsidiary hortus GmbH, it was necessary to optimize retrieval, using time frames and priorities as guidelines. In this case, Noerpel has to complete a delivery "just in time", which can be achieved by an efficient warehouse with only few changes between

The company founded in 1881 with headquarters in Ulm, Germany, employs over 520 employees and has gained a turnover of approx. 107 million Euros in 2007. In Ulm, Ravensburg, Kempten and Passau, the company provides almost 90,000 square meters of logistics surface. The application at four sites as well as five secondary sites – all of them are connected to the central data processing centre in ULM per EDP – was the basic prerequisite for the selection of a new warehouse management software solution. For the IT manager Arnold Ottenbreit, next to a flexible and high-performance management of business processes, the main requirement was the integration into the existing system environment. "We wanted a system with which we could perfectly depict our logistic processes. With dynamic warehouse management functionalities, we wanted to promptly react to current events in order to guarantee a readiness for delivery and high-level performance". The decision was made in favor of LFS 400 from the company E+P.



The Noerpel Logistik GmbH + Co. KG knows what is most important in logistic services: flexibility, reliability and quickness. In order to meet growing customer requirements, the company counts on LFS 400. By the implementation, Noerpel achieves a higher warehouse turnover, an optimization of readiness for delivery and routes as well as a reduction of production costs and error rates.



Automated order processing: picking with “locomotives” means a significant increase in efficiency.

the aisles. For the required optimization, there is an automated pallet management, which already observes the probable retrieval sequence during putaway. For a smooth collaboration of the logistic systems between the customer and Noerpel, data are exchanged in transfer tables in real-time by direct data base accesses. Ottenbreit gives a descriptive image of the automated connection: “When Gardena presses the according button, LFS 400 takes the respective pallet out of the high bay warehouse!”

Templates save time in recording new customers

In order to adapt the processes of every single customer to the workflow, one client for each customer is created in the warehouse management system. This way, all processes can be defined quickly, also by using templates. According components can be transferred from existing to new customers, so that the work flows in warehouse management can be defined quickly. The “Templates” signify a time saving when recording new customers and also in “customizing”. This is even more important due to hundreds of options of combining the processes. “The transfer of settings is an essential factor of increasing efficiency”, Arnold Ottenbreit explains. Customer-specific services can be individually supported by the software, no matter if it is tracing a shipment or finishing products,

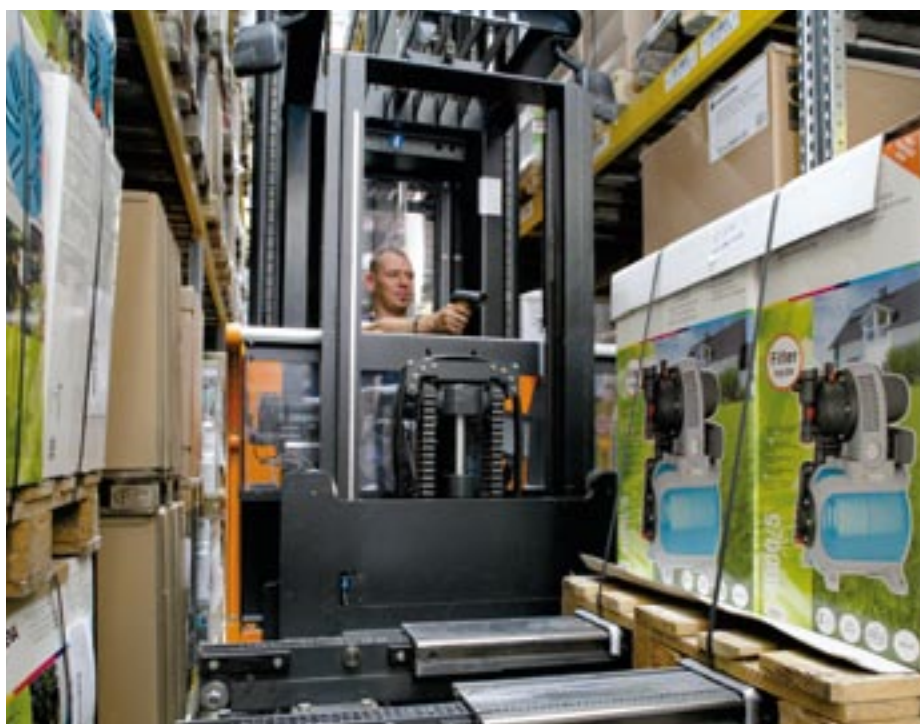
like equipping electronic products with components by order of a customer. Especially in the newly built high bay warehouse in Ulm, where there are 48 racks with 24 aisles to be managed, the new solution for warehouse logistics has contributed to advancing putaway and retrieval strategies.

More know-how in warehousing and logistics meets customer requirements

As an important effect besides cost reduction and gains in efficiency, Noerpel has remarked an increase of know-how in warehousing and logistics since the introduction of the system. This shows, for instance, in the realization of new customer profiles with the help of the information system. The requirements of most customers can be fulfilled with flexible customizing by the employees. This way, Noerpel programs interfaces for the data exchange with customers, for example for statistics, performance indicators, load scanning or an online EDI connection to other host systems via converters in different data formats. Next to the methodical, the company also provides technological knowledge to realize new requirements. This also has an effect on the consulting services, for instance when the method of implementation is to be defined with the customer before the project start.

Increased productivity by the application of modern picking techniques

Next to the optimization of warehousing strategies, new technologies like voice-instructions for improved picking (Pick-by-Voice) or mobile data transmission for the automated direction of fork lifts are examples for the application of new technologies. Here, the software manages order processing. Based on time,



The “just in time” delivery for the customer Gardena is realized reliably by LFS 400.



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Optimization at Noerpel: the deployment of the fork lifts is managed by the warehouse management system.

priority and distance of the fork lift, the prioritization and sequence of the orders is managed. The result are few changes between the aisles and shorter routes for the fork lift, for instance by combining putaway and retrievals. Production orders and direct collections generally have a higher priority than shipping. Also in this process, the central management is combined with the required flexibility, as the system immediately registers spontaneous pallet transfers.

Improved cost transparency and resource deployment

Next to the above-mentioned points, Noerpel sees a great benefit in using LFS 400 in form of an increased cost transparency. An important factor of improvement in Ulm is resource deployment. This

concerns deployment and capacity as well as planning. This way, the transport control system can be applied optimally, as the warehouse management system determines the extent of its application in advance. The high reliability of the logistic solution with a high availability cluster, which almost reaches 100 per cent by the use of a productive and a backup system, has been emphasized.

As Noerpel has remarked, the requirements of most customers can be realized with the functions contained in the standard or by own adaptations. It is expected that the latest technologies, for instance in the domain of RFID, can still advance the already existing flexibility. The family enterprise considers itself ready for developing their future business models within changing requirements.

For more informations, please contact to:



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