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# GAME ON

Contract logistics provider, Fiege, is using an efficient Pocket Sorter solution from **Knapp** to serve its client, SportScheck, at its facility in Erfurt, Germany.

Three-step matrix sortation process sequences the pockets

A family business since it was established in 1873, Fiege now has the fifth generation at the helm. In those 140 years, the organisation has evolved from a regional transport and forwarding company to a global logistics provider with 160 sites in 15 countries across Europe and the Far East.

The group has 2.7 million sq m of warehousing and logistics space and is one of the 10 most powerful 3PLs in Europe.

At Fiege's distribution centre in Erfurt, Germany, the company provides fulfilment services for SportScheck, Germany's leading sports retailer by revenue. SportScheck is a multi-channel business, achieving its net turnover of €319m in 2015-16 through a combination of catalogue mail order, 23 stores in Germany and internet sales to the German, Austrian and Swiss markets. Marketing more than 35,000 products of sports equipment, clothing and accessories from over 500 brands – including Adidas, Salomon, Nike, Puma, Asics, Bench, Garmin and Reebok – SportScheck has been in business for 70 years and has been part of the Otto group since 1991.

## OVERHEAD SORTATION

The Erfurt facility has 40,000 sq m of floor space and features three levels kitted out with the overhead sortation technology of Dürkopp Fördertechnik, a member of the Knapp group. Dürkopp Fördertechnik pioneered pocket sortation technology and over 1.75 million pockets have been sold by the Knapp group to date.

The system easily handles the performance peaks of SportScheck's seasonal business. The pockets are connected to a rail system via a 'rolladapter' that the pocket hangs from, which features an RFID transponder. The pockets are manually filled

at seven loading stations, where warehouse staff push the goods over a scanning area and into the pocket, supplied by the system. From this point on, the goods can be identified in the system at any time through RFID.

As in any e-commerce operation, there are significant numbers of returned goods that need to be dealt with. After being checked, returns are given top priority to leave the warehouse again. New goods and returns are loaded into the Pocket Sorter system in separate areas, with returns then stored in a dynamic buffer to minimise the picking time. New goods are only moved out of the stationary storage area to the Pocket Sorter system when requested.

## 3-STEP MATRIX SORTATION

The heart of the Pocket Sorter solution is the sortation that sequences the individual pockets, sorting them into the precise order required by the packing stations. The solution uses a three-step matrix sortation process based on a mathematical algorithm.

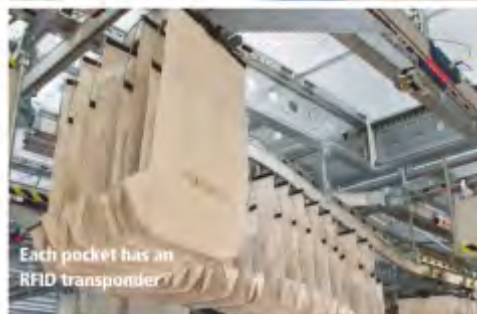
The solution is scalable, with up to 7,000 units being sorted per hour, per module. Each pocket can carry up to 3kg and accommodates goods up to 500x380x150mm in size, making the solution suitable for a very wide range of products.

At Erfurt, the Pocket Sorter system feeds orders to 35 packing stations – 23 for the direct-to-customer business and 12 for store replenishment. Like the loading stations, the dispatch stations are ergonomically designed, taking into account the various processes that need to be performed by the warehouse staff. E-commerce and catalogue customers receive their orders in cartons, whereas goods for the stores are delivered in roll cages. ■

[www.knapp.com](http://www.knapp.com)



Goods pushed over a scanning area and into the pocket



Each pocket has an RFID transponder



Pockets can carry goods up to 3kg