

Pallet Wrap

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FLEXIBILITY THE KEY TO HÖRMANN'S SUCCESS



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2016 is set to be another record-breaking year for Hörmann with numerous major projects in the pipeline and orders steadily increasing in new business areas. The industrial door and loading bay manufacturer remains at the forefront of its sector as Europe's leading supplier of doors, with much of its success coming down to its extensive range of high-quality products that all benefit from cutting-edge German engineering.

However, Hörmann's flexibility and innovation is becoming an increasingly important element in its winning formula. With businesses demanding facilities that provide greater adaptability and more efficient, streamlined operations, manufacturers are under increasing pressure to deliver the goods; and Hörmann has accepted the challenge.

As many operations now utilise a wide range of transport, including standard, double deck and aerodynamic trailers, as well as vans and other smaller vehicles, Hörmann has developed products that are versatile. Where multiple fleets are using the same loading bays, Hörmann's taller dock shelters with inflatable heads, which create a seal around whatever size trailer, are ideal. Similarly, the manufacturer's telescopic lip dock levellers enable precise positioning for a greater range of vehicles, making docking both easier and safer.

Hörmann's high-speed sectional door is another example of a product designed with multiple uses in mind. The HS7030 is specified across a variety of industries due to its ability to minimise heat loss and improve traffic flow and productivity. Featuring a PU-foamed

door leaf, it has a UD-value of 1.95 W/(m²K), the 42mm double-skinned steel door reaches an opening speed of up to 2.5 metres per second and a maximum closing speed of 0.5 metres per second.

These doors have been installed in temperature controlled frozen and chilled operations, as well as TNT's new sortation hub in Swindon, where over 650 items are processed a minute. They're also proving popular for level entry access points on sites where forklifts and other vehicles pass through frequently.

Safety is a high priority for Hörmann with all products meeting or exceeding EU legislation. The innovative safety light grille, with non-contact roll-up technology, is incorporated into the fast-action doors helping to eliminate collision or injury by recognising obstacles in

the closing zone. Impressive opening speeds, cutting edge safety features and durability together provide a cost-effective option.

Hörmann's commitment to engineering solutions where innovation is required also sets the manufacturer apart, which was demonstrated on a project at DP World London Gateway Port and Logistics Park. As cargo is off-loaded onto cassette trailers instead of lorries, Hörmann's loading bay technology was successfully adapted for the site's unique circumstances. The manufacturer is hoping to build on its achievements and continue to enhance its offering throughout the year.

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Further investment at Inspired Pet Nutrition's Dalton site



Inspired Pet Nutrition (formerly known as Waggs Foods) – the UK's largest independent producer of dry pet food – is investing a further £1.5 million at its facilities at Dalton Airfield in North Yorkshire. This amount is in addition to the new £7 million, 100,000 sq ft distribution centre which became operational in May.

A new central conveying system has been installed which will be eventually linked to all nine production lines. Instead of pallets having to be picked up manually at the end of each line and then moved by forklift truck to store, there will just be a single collection point with automated pallet handling. This removes the need for up to 80 (40 in and 40 out) forklift movements an hour around the factory and warehouse with associated safety benefits.

Currently the factory produces around 40 pallet loads per hour but the new conveying system is able to handle up to 75 pallets per hour so it can easily cope with the planned increase in production.

The conveying system will also work in tandem with the new distribution centre – which currently has a capacity to store 11,500 pallet loads – by using a technique called 'one shot loading'. The operation ensures the full pallets



Left to Right: George Page (Production Director) and David Wilson (Operations Manager) with the new central conveying system.

are automatically loaded on to a specially commissioned truck which delivers them to the new DC.

George Page, Operations Director at IPN, said: "Previously there was a lot of manual double handling required as pallets were collected from individual packing lines and stacked in the factory before being moved again for despatch. Now there is just a single collection point from where bagged goods are shunted on the Automatic Trailer

Loading System straight to the new DC, where they are automatically unloaded directly into an automated racking system that prepares loads for despatch."

INSPIRED PET NUTRITION

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Pallet to roll at SPAR

Grocery retailer SPAR in Austria is operating a semi-automated solution from KNAPP that enables goods to be picked directly from pallets to roll containers, dispensing with the need for decanting.

Headquartered in Salzburg, SPAR Österreich-Gruppe is one of Austria's leading grocery chains. Its core business is food retail but SPAR is also active in sports retail and shopping centres in Austria and seven neighbouring countries. The group employs some 75,000 people – 41,000 of them in Austria – and enjoys annual sales of over 13 billion euros (2015). Its network of more than 1,500 shops in Austria is served by six regional

distribution centres (DCs). At SPAR's 15,000m² regional DC in Maria Saal – which supplies around 150 stores in the states of Carinthia and East Tyrol – the company worked in partnership with KNAPP to develop an innovative, semi-automatic fulfilment system.

Increasing volumes

With steady growth, the Maria Saal DC was facing increased dispatch volumes. As picking large quantities of goods directly from pallets to roll containers presents a huge physical challenge, the company sought a solution that would improve ergonomics for employees, maintain flexibility in the picking process and increase

warehouse performance.

The Pick-it-Easy Move solution features a goods-to-person workstation that enables the efficient and shop-friendly picking of the entire range of fresh and dry goods. Picking is performed directly from the pallet to the roll container, eliminating the need to depalletize goods. The workstation – a rail-guided picking cart – moves automatically between the target locations, which are 16 roll containers, eight on each side, that are positioned on individual lifts.

Computer control

Articles are scanned at goods-in and an algorithm is used to calculate which orders should be picked manually and which by the Pick-it-Easy Move. Forklift drivers receive instructions via mobile terminals regarding which pallets to retrieve from the high-bay



The workstation is designed so that goods can be pushed rather than lifted.



The target locations are 16 roll containers – eight on each side – that are positioned on individual lifts

racking and deliver to the Pick-it-Easy Move. Two pallets of fast-moving goods are loaded on the front of the workstation. The picker then takes goods from the two source pallets and places them into the target roll containers according to instructions given on the computer screen – including exactly where each item should be placed for optimum space utilization.

The control system automatically calculates the shortest path between the source pallet and target roll container. When picking into a roll container is complete, the operator lowers it to the floor with the press of a button. Here, a colleague secures it with an empty one and sends this back up to the picker.

Ergonomic design

The mobile workstation is



KNAPP's free-rooming Open Shuttles can transport pallets weighing up to 1300kg.

designed so that goods can be pushed – rather than lifted – from the pallet to the roll container. Along with easy adjustment of both the height of the pallet load and the target roll container, this ensures ergonomic working with minimum operator strain. Pick-it-Easy Move offers great flexibility in fulfilment as well as a doubling of performance, enabling up to 600 cartons per hour to be picked.

Driverless vehicles

SPAR recently purchased more equipment from KNAPP with the delivery of the latest style of pallet-handling Open Shuttle automated guided vehicles.

Featuring swarm intelligence, the free-rooming Open Shuttles are used by SPAR for the transport of pallets weighing up to 1300kg from a high-bay racking system to goods-to-person workstations. The vehicles communicate with each other and autonomously distribute orders among themselves. They react dynamically to obstacles and plan their paths and any alternative routes required. The track-free design allows fast installation and seamless integration into existing environments.

KNAPP

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KNAPP's Pick-it-Easy Move enables picking directly from pallets to roll containers.