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Missguided fashion gets a lift from Nerak

Nerak Wiese has supplied two vertical lifts to XPO Logistics, operators of the new Missguided warehouse in Manchester.

Multi-channel fast fashion retailer, Missguided, opened its new DC in Trafford Park in July 2016. The facility is a joint investment with supply chain partner XPO Logistics and replaced Missguided's facility in Salford, which was at full capacity. The 250,000 sq ft DC – which has been designed to handle Missguided's logistics needs for the next ten years – features mezzanine floors that provide a total floor area in excess of one million sq ft. The facility operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

With the DC featuring four mezzanine levels above the ground floor, the operation required a vertical elevation solution. XPO Logistics commissioned Nerak Wiese to design and manufacture two lifts. Each lift comprises two independent hoists, each of which has two conveyors – mounted one above the other – and so can handle two loads. The lifts transport

cardboard cartons of goods received from manufacturers up to the picking areas on the mezzanines. Here, staff pick orders into totes, which are then transported down to the ground floor by the lifts. In addition, the lifts are used to transport empty totes up to the pick areas, with three totes nested together during elevation. The throughput from the top floor is 250 inbound and 250 outbound loads per hour, per lift.

As the lifts are based around rubber chain technology, they do not require frequent lubrication or recalibration. From a service and maintenance perspective, the result is very little downtime, minimising the associated costs.

“This has proven to be a cost-effective and high-quality solution,” says Phil Shepherd, director of technical services for XPO Logistics. “The system works well and, in tests, the equipment exceeded the specification, so we are delighted and plan to buy a further two lifts from Nerak.”

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Debenhams to close one DC and ten small warehouses

The retailer has begun a consultation on the closure of one central distribution centre and around 10 smaller regional warehousing facilities as part of a wide-ranging ‘Fix the Basics’ plan the company is working through.

The cut in warehouse capacity comes as Debenhams announced a 6.4% drop in profit to £87.8m (H1 2016: £93.8m).

The streamlining of operations feeds into a new strategy unveiled by the retailer – Debenhams Redesigned – which is designed to deliver revenue growth by turning the brand into a ‘destination’ and ramping up digital sales.

Debenhams is investing in automation within its warehouses and expects to complete its roll out in FY2020.

Debenhams expects to spend an

additional c.£50m on improvements from 2018-2020, of which supply chain is one of three key areas, along with upgrading mobile systems and store estate.

The review of operations is cutting in-store SKUs by 10% and working to speed up replenishment times from an average of eight days to two days.

The company said: “As a result of more efficient stock flows combined with the transition to a single WMS, consultation has begun on the closure of one central distribution centre and around 10 smaller regional warehousing facilities.”

Sergio Bucher, chief executive of Debenhams, added: “Having simplified our operations to make us more efficient, we will be able to serve customers better and make better use of our resources.”

Geodis supports order fulfillment for Kenzo

Geodis is stepping up its growth in the retail fashion sector as proven by a new partnership with Kenzo, the luxury prêt-à-porter company.

Geodis has been operating Kenzo's global logistics from France since the beginning of March in a five-year partnership. With a dedicated team of 70, Geodis is responsible for the reception, storage and preparation of the fashion brand's clothes, leather goods, shoes and accessories.

Geodis' logistics campus to the south of Paris, a secure site with storage and preparation facilities especially adapted to folded and hanging garments was selected to centralise these operations. Geodis is also supporting Kenzo in the development of its eCommerce sales channel by preparing and fulfilling orders. In addition Kenzo is



sourcing specific services from Geodis such as the management of raw materials, quality control and ensuring all its products meet regulatory compliance standards.

David Perruche, logistics director at Kenzo, says: “It is the ability of Geodis to support Kenzo in its international growth and both the modularity and flexibility of its technical and commercial offering that caught our attention.”

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