

- 2 AMHSA**
2 AMHSA gears up.
- 2 Beaverswood**
2 Planning to label your warehouse?
- 3 FLTA**
3 Safety: Make it automatic.
- 4 Gideon Hillman Consulting**
4 The end of the logistics chain, going the extra mile...
- 5 Briggs Equipment**
5 Briggs toasts more success.
- 6 SEMA**
6 Rack Awareness Course Enhanced.
- 6 CML**
- 6 Kite Packaging**
6 Need Speed? It's a wrap.
- 8 AITT**
8 Mind the gaps!
- 8 Efaflex**
8 The perfect partner.
- 10 Lumilow Lighting**
10 Distributor saves nearly £7k a year.
- 10 Hörmann**
10 The changing face of ecommerce and its effects on logistics.
- 11 Egger**
11 Next level for expansion and growth.
- 12 Inconso**
- 12 Ecobat**
12 VERTU - Something Rather Special.
- 13 Wagner**
13 Risk mitigation rather than loss adjustment.
- 14 BITA**
14 Forklift modifications carry risks.
- 14 Thorworld**
14 Loading bay is perfect match.
- 15 CFTS**
15 CFTS: Raising standards.

KASTO STORAGE TOWER

FOR SHEET METAL IS COMPACT AND ECONOMICAL

Metal sawing and storage equipment manufacturer, KASTO, has introduced a new tower to provide a compact, standardised solution for automated storage and retrieval of pallets and flat material. Advantages of the system, called KASTOecostore, are its low space requirement, high storage density, short material access times and value for money.

Metal sawing and storage equipment manufacturer, KASTO, has introduced a new tower to



The KASTOecostore tower storage system is a compact, standardised solution ideal for storing pallets and flat goods of various sizes.

provide a compact, standardised solution for automated storage and retrieval of pallets and flat material. Advantages of the system, called KASTOecostore, are its low space requirement, high storage density, short material access times and value for money.

The store accommodates material up to 1,500 mm deep by either three or four metres wide. Both types are available with a load capacity per station of either 1.2 or three tonnes. System height can be specified by the customer from 3.1 metres to 8.0 metres. The same applies to the level at which loading and unloading takes place, as users can select different heights up to 950 mm.

Besides being suitable for storing sheet metal in a wide range of sizes, KASTOecostore can also hold euro-pallets and stillages. This makes it ideal for applications involving different materials in small businesses, workshops and maintenance shops. It can also be used as a buffer store between production areas in factories, close to machinery if necessary.

The lifting gear drive is equipped with leading-edge frequency converters from Siemens and the motor is stationary to allow precise, dynamic loading and unloading. Robust roller chains ensure long service life and low maintenance. The steel frame consists of standardised rolled sections and can be dimensioned in accordance with



A KASTOecostore for holding material up to 1,500 mm deep by 4,000 mm wide.

the relevant standards for earthquake resistance. Comprehensive safety control measures prevent malfunction and costly downtime.

KASTOecostore comes as standard with the manufacturer's own SmartControl, which has an intuitive, touchscreen user interface for rapid, error-free data input by all operators. Loads can be on pallets or special cassettes, which are stored and retrieved automatically and brought to an ergonomic height for ease of handling. Additional lifting equipment such as a forklift is not necessary, keeping access times short.

KASTO offers an extensive range of accessories for adapting the store to special requirements. They include a movable carriage for loading and unloading material from the back of the tower; and insert bolts for subdividing pallets and cassettes. A storage aid with lift-off bolts is available to assist in the handling of sheet metal and other materials using a stacker or crane.

KASTO LTD

Ernst Wagner, Managing Director
Tel: 01908 571590
Email: sales@uk.kasto.com
www.kasto.com

Working with Government for the good of the industry

Whatever the British public decides when it goes to the polls, UKWA will continue to communicate the views of its members to government ministers across all relevant departments, says Peter Ward, UKWA's chief executive officer

While it is generally accepted that elections create a degree of uncertainty that can be unhelpful to a nation's economic growth prospects, the fact that just a matter of weeks will separate the sound of the starter's pistol from the moment when the victor crosses the finishing line, means that the Prime Minister's decision to go the country on June 8th is unlikely to cause too much disruption among the UK's wealth creators in the logistics and other commercial sectors.

That is not to say that everyone has warmly welcomed the news that there is to be another public vote so soon after last year's EU Referendum. Indeed, in addition to grumblings

about 'voter fatigue,' there is plenty of support for the theory that the poll has been called principally for the benefit of the Conservative Party rather than the country.

But, most serious commentators from both sides of the political divide seem to accept that Mrs May announced an election for sound and sensible reasons: It is her contention that a large majority in Parliament will enable the Government to force through what it hopes will be the best Brexit deal for Britain without getting sidetracked by significant opposition from those elements within Parliament and, indeed, Brussels, who believe that because the Government's majority is currently so small its resolve will weaken and it will be forced to change course.

Certainly the UK needs strong leadership as we seek to extricate ourselves from the EU and, regardless of one's political allegiances and views on the whole Brexit issue, the majority of people will agree that it is essential that voters

deliver a clear outcome on June 8th that allows our elected politicians - from whichever party they come - to press on with the hugely important negotiations that lie ahead.

Whatever the British public decides next month, UKWA will continue to communicate the views of its members to government ministers across all relevant departments.

By feeding information and sharing members' views on infrastructure, skills, migration and a host of other issues, we are striving to ensure that the Government looks beyond its pool of civil servants and 'think tanks' for advice as it strives to develop a strategy that will deliver the best possible Brexit outcome for the UK.

The fact is that Ministers must consult directly with business organisations and trade associations like ours for expert guidance and insights from 'the front line' as they make the decisions that will affect our country for generations to come and the ability to broker knowledge both ways between our members and



the policy makers, means that UKWA's role as the voice of the logistics industry has never been more significant.

But we can only be truly effective with the input of those companies and individuals operating in the logistics sector. Quite simply, if you're involved in the logistics and supply chain sector, it is time to engage with your industry trade association. Share your thoughts on any areas of Government policy where you feel UKWA can use its influence to help drive future strategy not only of our industry, but of the UK in a new global landscape in the right direction.

UKWA

www.ukwa.org.uk

AMHSA gears up for increasing demand for automation

Matthew Jones, Administration Manager of the Automated Material Handling Systems Association, reports on AMHSA's recent AGM.

Following a social event for members at Market Harborough's canal-side Waterfront restaurant the night before, AMHSA's Annual General Meeting was held at its headquarters in the town on 26th April. The meeting reflected the buoyant mood in the automated handling sector, which is currently experiencing high numbers of projects and enquiries, and laid out the association's plans for the future.

Activities

The AGM began with a review of the association's recent busy calendar of activities by Dave Berridge, AMHSA

Secretary. Events have included an industry-specific Training Workshop, the two-day Intralogistics 2017 show at Coventry's Ricoh Arena in March and a round-table event on Brexit in February.

Strategic review

Dave Berridge then handed over to Martin Elliott, AMHSA President, who outlined the progress of the association's strategic review. Martin explained that significant steps had been taken in establishing the four 'pillars' of AMHSA – training, communication, standards and marketing – and that these key roles would be the foundations of the association going forward. He went on to explain that critical analysis had been undertaken to understand the AMHSA brand and that strategic development would now re-inforce AMHSA's commitment to quality for both its members and clients.

More apprentices

Members at the AGM also received an update on the AMHSA apprenticeship programme, now in its third successful year and still growing. Operated in association with car manufacturer, Toyota, the scheme enables AMHSA members' apprentices to take part in a four-year programme under which they spend the first two years learning a range of hands-on, high-tech engineering skills at the Toyota



Matthew Jones, Administration Manager of AMHSA

Academy in Burnaston, Derbyshire, and the remaining two years building on this with industry-specific skills and knowledge at the premises of the member company. Members recently had the opportunity to experience for themselves the state-of-the-art facilities and education at the Toyota Academy during AMHSA's Training Workshop, held at the Burnaston site in April. In addition to presentations by industry specialists on a number of material handling topics – including containers, cranes/shuttle systems, AGVs and picking systems – delegates enjoyed a fascinating tour of the training facilities and of Toyota's car assembly halls.

AMHSA

www.amhsa.co.uk

Planning to label your warehouse?



The management of any warehouse/stores needs an effective labelling and identification system. Stock needs to be identified and in its rightful place in order to maximise order picking and minimise costly errors. It is understood that many order pickers working in an environment where an in-effective system operates, waste a large proportion of their time trying to pick goods that are not in their rightful place.

This also leads to an increase in picking errors. These errors hurt every aspect of the business as not only does it lead to having to re-process the order and re-despatch taking up lots of precious time, it could also lower customer retention.

For many SME's having a full barcoded order picking system isn't feasible due to costs and as a result most business retain their existing systems which often become antiquated as a result of changes in product, market fluctuations and

warehouse practices. A small outlay to produce a labelling system can help in achieving lower picking times, reduce errors and often help in increasing customer satisfaction and retention.

Beaverswood manufactures labels of all kinds, for pallet racking and for shelving. The labels can be printed with alpha numeric codes, random sequences, barcodes and colour level identification.

Labels are manufactured on materials to suit your requirements whether for ambient temperatures or cold store. Labels can be produced on magnetic sheet, enabling them to be relocated if required.

Beaverswood's experienced team not only manufacture the labels but we can offer advice and assistance throughout the process.

BEAVERSWOOD LTD

Tel: 0118 979 6096
Email: sales@beaverswood.co.uk
www.beaverswood.co.uk



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01279 871787

F: 01279 871636

contact@unitedstorage.co.uk

www.unitedstorage.co.uk

www.unitedstoragedirect.co.uk



S&L United Storage Systems Ltd, United House, The Street, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6QR