INCONSO
KÖRBER SOLUTIONS

Case Study

Griesson - de Beukelaer inconso WMS X

Griesson - de Beukelaer controls complex logistics network with inconso products

Customer profile

Prinzen Rolle, Soft Cake, Café Musica:
Griesson - de Beukelaer (GdB) offers consumers a broad assortment of popular sweet and salty products from their five German production sites: Polch near Koblenz, Kempen in the Lower Rhine region, Ravensburg in Baden-Württemberg, Wurzen in Saxony and Kahla in Thuringia. This network is complemented by the central warehouse in Koblenz built in 2004.
The central warehouse comprises a high bay warehouse with eight aisles and 40,000 pallet locations as well as a picking zone in the mezzanine with ABC classification in which mixed pallets are picked.
In Goods Issue, there are 80 shipping lanes for 17 pallets each that are equipped with vertical conveyors. All processes are temperature-controlled and all stages are documented.
In 2011, GdB sold 156,000 tons of cookies.

The project

In the scope of a new tender, a service provider was sought that would manage all operations at all logistics sites as well as plan and control the connected network. Considering the complex network structure, the tender also included the desire to replace the existing heterogeneous warehouse systems with a uniform WMS and SCM system. BLG and inconso developed a uniform and comprehensive system as the central control system.

BLG retail logistics, which was able to provide convincing warehouse, distribution and IT concepts due to its experience in operating automated warehouses, fulfilled all requirements of GdB and was entrusted together with inconso with the site logistics and network management. Another factor was that GdB already had positive experiences with inconso systems at multiple sites and could trust in the IT solutions.

The solution

The entire software architecture was reorganized during the setup of a comprehensive logistics system. Previously, the conveyor technology controls and material flow controls were managed by the manufacturers. Now, inconsoWMS X controls all processes through to the PLC at all sites. inconsoSCE is used for comprehensive control, accessing the data of all sites and, via an interface, the SAP ERP system at GdB and the systems at Uhlhorn. This is also where the order, ASN and relocation management as well as dashboard functions are located.

One of the biggest challenges for the logistics systems was the distribution of production to multiple sites. The plants not only produce different goods, they are frequently moved between the plants for completion, co-packing or “customer-oriented repacking.”

GRIESSON - DE BEUKELAER

Semi-finished goods, for example, can be transported to other plants and manufactured into finished products. Finished goods can be transported to a regional hub via direct store-out, directly to the retail customer or to Koblenz for further packaging. This especially includes co-packing, which takes place in the individual plants and which consolidates the equipping with customer and action-specific displays. This preparation is a major part of adding value, which BLG provides to GdB; approximately 2,500 different display types are registered. If displays are still being created in the plants, “customer-oriented repacking”only occurs in the central warehouse in Koblenz.

The retail customer decides the height of pallets to be delivered and their wishes are fulfilled exactly. The system uses the parameters of the currently called-up target pallets and available stocks of full and partial pallets to calculate and optimize the necessary process, no matter if the customer would like a uniform height or has exact requirements for access-specific mixed pallets.
The most important optimization tool at GdB is the central network dashboard. It provides a comprehensive view of all stocks, transports, capacities, events and special events of the entire network.

This enables immediate reactions to outside influences as well as insufficient quantities or surplus quantities. This enables immediate reactions to outside influences as well as insufficient quantities or surplus quantities. For example, if an ASRS in the high bay warehouse in Koblenz fails and one of the aisles must be blocked, it can be determined immediately where and how the resulting required stock is available for upcoming orders. This prevents delays and delivery cancellations.

After two years and extensive testing, the sites switched to the new IT step-by-step. The entire migration took place at nearly full capacity. At the same time, it was possible to certify six sites according to the international food standard.

At a glance

Customer
Griesson - de Beukelaer GmbH & Co. KG

Project goals
Replacement of the heterogeneuos old systems and stanardization of the network control

Products and solutions
inconsoWMS X
inconsoSCE

“The network and control systems are so flexible that we can create new warehouses anytime, even with a laptop, and that includes all processes requested on-site.”

Michael Wichmann
Director Operation at BLG Handelslogistik