

HERMA GmbH



Stuttgart-based HERMA GmbH is a leading supplier of self-adhesive technologies on the European market. The company currently employs a staff of 800 in three plants in the Stuttgart area and achieved sales of 154 million euros in 2003. HERMA comprises three independently operating lines of business: adhesive materials, labelling systems and stationery. The implementation of the 15 million euro logistics centre represents a leap forward for the company into a new dimension with regard to delivery time, flexibility and quality whilst at the same time smaller quantities can be supplied at shorter notice.

The system core comprises an 11-aisle automatic small-parts warehouse with 100,000 storing positions and an upstream

conveyor system with picking and packing stations as an extension to the existing warehouse. A warehouse management system and pick-by-voice / transport-by-voice support have also been implemented in the palette warehouse with 5,700 storing positions for large-volume articles.

Requirements

In addition to the planned operational procedures, HERMA defined more advanced requirements in the system specifications. These included functions such as various detailed analyses, medium-term resource planning and archiving functions. Another special feature was the construction of a control

centre that can use data from the overlying system to simulate future usage of the system. Not only was smooth integration of the software in the existing IT environment considered very important, the emphasis was also on flexibility. Adaptability of the software to the operational conditions was therefore the keyword here. In addition to this, voice-control software for picking and transportation in the palette warehouse also needed to be implemented.

PSIwms range of functions

- Interface to SAP/R3 and underlying control system
- Administration of base data
- Stock information by Transport unit and totals
- Warehouse receipt process
- Voice-controlled truck control system
- Order processing
- Pick-by-voice "person-to-goods" picking in the palette warehouse
- "Goods-to-person" picking in the mini-load warehouse
- Display at the workstations of print files and notifications provided by SAP
- Planning control system
- Archive server
- Reports and statistics
- Permanent stocktaking

Implementation

A comprehensive concept for bringing the new system into service was jointly developed by all the primary project

partners in order to reduce, as far as possible, the risks associated with bringing a new system into service during continued warehouse operation. This involved drawing up comprehensive lists of points detailing the measures for implementing the components as well as the two-stage start-up of the complete system. The first step involved testing the new software including the SAP connection under real operating conditions without the new system components. In the second step, communications between the warehouse management system and the material flow control system were activated, the new system components were switched on and the bin warehouse was filled using the warehouse management system. Early testing of the functions and interfaces with the aid of automated test procedures ensured a smooth transfer to the new system.

Hardware configuration

A high-availability computer system running Windows 2000 was set up as the server for the warehouse management system. The server safeguards system performance and availability and is installed as a double configuration in a rack.

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