Strong logistics needs strong processes

Automation:

Robots reduce employees' physical workload

Challenge

Whether content, size or weight, there are hardly two identical parcels at Würth within one year. The entire range of products must be packed in different sizes of cardboard boxes and arranged on pallets in a space-saving manner.

Advantages

Robots increase productivity: By now, 80 percent of the parcels sent are palleted by robots at the headquarters in Gaisbach, Germany.

Robots reduce employees' physical workload: A palletizing robot lifts parcels of around 100 tons of weight per day.

In short

Automated processes in logistics increase efficiency and productivity. This way, customers receive their goods quickly and reliably and employees are supported in their hard physical work.

Almost 12,000 people work in logistics at the Würth Group, and we will keep those jobs.

Global knowledge network creates synergies

Experts from the so-called "Inno.Log panel" screen the market for new technologies, test them in the new Würth Innovation Center Curio, if necessary, and include them in a "technology toolbox" that provides standardized automation solutions for the Würth Group.

These automation solutions can then be rolled out to other Würth companies.

Through joint project management, the logistics centers in Italy, France and Germany are currently being equipped with the same software and technology.

Insight into logistics at Würth

At the Press Conference on the Annual Financial Statements, we will be showing short films providing exclusive insights into how Würth uses innovative technologies in logistics to ensure reliable deliveries to our customers:

Clip 1: Student Richard presents the COBOT in the incoming goods department of the Distribution Center West at the Künzelsau-Gaisbach site

The collaborative robot (Cobot) has the task of picking packaging units in the incoming goods department and placing them in the storage containers. The containers then make their way to the shuttle warehouse for storage. For the employees, working with COBOT means a great physical relief.

Clip 2: Trainee Maxi shows the pick-it-easy robot in the picking process at Würth Industrie in Bad Mergentheim

The robot's task is to remove products from the bins and distribute them to the individual customer orders. There are no restrictions for the robots as to the condition of the packages. In the past, the gripper could only pick small, rectangular boxes. Today, it can handle any type of packaging.

Clip 3: Trainee Maxi shows the volume reducer in the packing process at Würth Industrie in Bad Mergentheim

The volume reducer is an automated packaging machine that precisely cuts the box to the height that fits the contents to be packaged. The downsized box height significantly reduces the amount of filling material and transport volume required. Würth can thus save around 30 percent of filling material, which, in addition to reduced costs, is also more sustainable. This also means less waste for our customers.

Clip 4: Student Richard presents the palletizing robot in the incoming goods department of the Distribution Center West at the Künzelsau-Gaisbach site

The palletizing robot places packages ready for shipment from the conveyor belt on a pallet. The packages now begin their journey from the logistics center to the customer. Today, 80 percent of the parcels shipped at the Gaisbach site are palleted by robots. With an average package weight of up to 12 kilograms and 8,000 packages per day, this means maximum relief for our employees.