



## **Winkler Logistik GmbH, Ulm.** **Process optimisation and increased efficiency with warehouseNAVIGATION.**



**JUNGHEINRICH**

### **Project:**

Winkler Logistik GmbH, Ulm, Germany

### **Industry:**

Commercial vehicle spare parts wholesale

### **Task:**

Integration of the narrow-aisle warehouse into the customer processes

### **Project duration:**

02.2012 – 03.2013

### **Services:**

- Narrow-aisle truck with warehouseNAVIGATION
- Jungheinrich Logistics Interface for truck connection
- Reach trucks
- Racking systems

### **Most important results:**

- 18 to 20% improvement in order-picking efficiency
- Integration into existing IT and logistics processes

### **Versatile high-quality services**

The Winkler Group is one of Europe's leading wholesalers in the field of commercial vehicle spare parts. With more than 1,400 employees, the company can offer all brand manufacturers an extensive range of spare parts. In order to guarantee the best possible delivery capability, Winkler Logistik GmbH operates a central warehouse in Ulm, among others. The company's core expertise does

not just include fast delivery capability but also the permanently high quality of its full range.

### **Process optimisation in the narrow-aisle warehouse**

Due to its continuous growth, Winkler Logistik GmbH decided to expand its central warehouse in Ulm. To use the available space to its best possible advantage while retaining rapid access to products, the company decided on a narrow-aisle warehouse with more than 15,300 pallet locations. Jungheinrich was able to meet the requirements of the customer and optimally integrate the narrow-aisle warehouse into the company's already excellent processes. Thanks to high-rack stackers, the Logistics Interface as interface software and the Jungheinrich warehouseNAVIGATION, not only was it possible to further optimise the existing processes but also to guarantee the smooth flow of operations.

### **Longevity and automatic tracking**

Winkler Logistik GmbH was looking for a supplier which, in addition to delivering reliable trucks, would also be able to supply navigation in narrow aisles without the need for costly barcode scanning. The Logistics Interface and innovative RFID technology offered by Jungheinrich made it the perfect choice.

## The requirement

### Integration into existing processes

Fast delivery capability and high quality are the characteristics of Winkler Logistik GmbH. They are also reflected in the company's impressive overall logistics system. In order to meet the customer's requirements, the narrow-aisle warehouse had to be integrated into the existing processes. The link to the conveyor system was therefore just as important as the precise approach to storage bays in the narrow-aisle warehouse. In order to save valuable time when order picking, it was important to the customer that there is no barcode scanning at the storage bay.

## The solution

### Forklifts, Logistics Interface and warehouseNAVIGATION in synergy

After analysing the existing requirements, Winkler decided on six EKS 312 medium/high-level order pickers and three EKX 515 electric high-level combination picker/stackers from Jungheinrich; the latter truck could also be operated fully automatically. At Winkler, the trucks are operated semi-automatically in the ten-metre-high narrow aisle and have Jungheinrich warehouseNAVIGATION. This innovative assistance system is connected via the Logistics Interface software to the customer's own warehouse management system, so that orders can be forwarded directly on to the trucks. All the operator needs to do is press the accelerator and the high-rack stacker will travel semi-automatically and via the most efficient route to the desired location. The truck is able to orient itself within the aisles using RFID transponders and knows its precise location at all times. As soon as the order is executed and the fork returns to its home position, this information will be combined. The Logistics Interface then reports the conclusion of the order back to the Warehouse Management System. This therefore dispenses entirely with time-consuming barcode scans of the target location.

The RFID technology and the Jungheinrich Logistics Interface also enable the conveyor system at the beginning of the narrow-aisle warehouse to be approached with the Jungheinrich warehouseNAVIGATION system.

## Customer statement

### Increased efficiency due to Jungheinrich warehouseNAVIGATION

Herbert Skala, Logistics Manager at Winkler Logistik GmbH, is convinced of the benefits of Jungheinrich's warehouseNAVIGATION: "Jungheinrich was able to smoothly connect the new narrow-aisle warehouse to our materials handling technology. This has significantly optimised processes in the new warehouse." The fact that the warehouseNAVIGATION works with RFID technology was a key reason for choosing the Jungheinrich solution: "In addition to the longevity of the trucks, the fact that RFID transponders in the floor removed the need for our operators to carry out barcode scans was decisive to the awarding of the contract. This contributes significantly to the improved efficiency of the order picking."



Herbert Skala, Logistics Manager, Winkler Logistik GmbH in Ulm.

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