



Varova

Varova creates logistics synergy with Pick to Cart and Put to Store

IMPROVEMENTS

- From four warehouses to one DC
- Batch picking thanks to Pick to Cart
- E-commerce efficiency based on a put wall

REALIZATION

- Decision for robust technology
- Round-the-clock support during go-live phase
- 12,000 order lines per day
- 220 order lines per person per hour

Diederik den Dekker, senior associate at Varova:

“Inther truly understood what we wanted, which meant that we were soon both in agreement.”

Investment company Varova has moved all its fashion-industry logistics activities to a single existing warehouse, located in Arnhem, which has been substantially extended for that purpose. The company enlisted Inther’s help for the logistics set-up in the distribution centre (DC). Thanks to the implementation of concepts like Put to Store and Pick to Cart, and with additional conveyors and a put wall, the productivity of the order picking process has more than doubled. Varova’s Diederik den Dekker comments: “Centralizing our activities in this way not only creates synergy in storage and order picking, but also reduces our transport costs.”

Dutch investment company Varova owns three retail chains – Open32, Men at Work and Sissy-Boy—totaling close to 200 stores. Varova also provides wholesale services to a number of well-known fashion brands such as GSUS, Tumble ‘N Dry, KOI and Ontour. Following various acquisitions, Varova found itself with four warehouses which led to the decision to centralize all the logistics activities at an existing warehouse in Arnhem. That facility had to be extended from 5,000 to 13,000 square metres in order to house all 20,000 SKUs. Including two mezzanine floors, the total floor space now amounts to 22,000 square metres, where between five million and six million items of clothing are handled each year. Diederik den Dekker, senior associate at Varova: “First and foremost, centralization creates synergy in terms of storage and order picking. As an added advantage, it reduces our transport costs.”

Batch picking with Pick to Cart

The revamped warehouse has been designed by Inther, which has supplied a single, integrated system for all of Varova’s goods flows: wholesale orders, retail orders and online orders as well as the push flow. Inside the warehouse, this entailed adding two mezzanine floors where the order picking is now done in line with Inther’s Pick to Cart concept. Employees walk around the





warehouse with a cart offering space for up to six boxes so that they can pick several orders simultaneously. The digital Pick to Light display above each box indicates how many units must be placed into each box. "For wholesale and retail orders, each box is assigned to a particular customer or a particular store. As soon as a box is full, it is placed onto the conveyor and taken to the ground floor," says Den Dekker. This new concept has more than doubled the productivity, which is now up to 220 order lines per order picker per hour.



A put wall for sorting and consolidating

A different process has been set up for online consumer orders, which are so small that multiple orders are assigned to a single box on the picking cart. "This enables a warehouse operative to pick up to 75 online orders at once," explains Den Dekker. On the ground floor, a put wall has introduced an extra sortation step into the flow of online orders. The put wall comprises 60 different compartments which are linked to online customers. When the sorting operative scans one of the picked items, an LED display indicates the relevant compartment for that item. "As soon as an order is complete, the LED display on the other side of the put wall lights up. That's the signal to our packing operatives that the items are ready to be packed. In the case of bigger orders, the displays of all relevant compartments light up in the same colour so that items from different batches can be consolidated into a single shipment."



Put to Store for the push flow

Inther has installed multiple sortation lanes on the ground floor; these divide the majority of the items among the relevant stores whenever a new collection arrives. "Each store has its own box in the sortation lanes. The Pick to Light display above each box indicates how many units the store should receive." To manage the order picking and sorting process, Inther has implemented the LC warehouse control system. Integrated with SAP, this smart system intelligently consolidates orders into batches and plans the order pickers' routes through the warehouse as efficiently as possible. Den Dekker is satisfied with how the warehouse has been extended and redesigned. "Inther truly understood what we wanted, which meant that we were soon both in agreement about the right solution. Furthermore, Inther provided round-the-clock support during the go-live."



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SUMMARY

- Project management
- Handling 22,000 items of clothing per day, five million to six million items per year
- Warehouse extended from 5,000 to 13,000 m²
- 2 mezzanine floors have added an extra 8,000 m²
- 20,000 SKUs, 60,000 pick locations
- Batch picking with Pick to Cart
- Productivity doubled to 220 order lines per order picker per hour
- 12,000 order lines per day divided over two shifts
- A put wall adds an extra sortation step for online orders
- Put to Light to allocate goods to stores
- Conveyors for transporting boxes between different floors
- Inther LC warehouse control system