

ProStore® SUCCESS STORY

at Importhaus Wilms/Impuls



View of the distribution centre in Alzey

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Powerful software for powerful brand ▶ Dextro Energy is a well known brand which uses the slogan. "More energy, better performance" for body and mind. The distribution rights for the dextrose, which provides a quick and systematic energy boost to sport and free time users, are held by importhaus Wilms/Impuls, a subsidiary company of Hamburg's Zertus GmbH. ProStore®, the logistics solution provided by the TEAM company in Paderborn, ensures that Dextro Energy as well as many other international brand specialties are spread all over the world. The system guarantees a smooth transparent product flow. Each goods movement is traceable at any point.

SUCCESS STORY

ProStore® components

- Mobile recording of incoming goods
- Storage
- Quality assurance
- Warehouse management
- Material flow control
- Replenishment
- Formation of batches
- Radio-based paperless order picking
- Paperless order picking per
- Pick by Light and Pick by Voice
- Paper-based order picking
- Packaging
- Shipping
- Stocktaking
- Inventory management
- Information system
- Batch tracing

Hardware and tools

- NVE-labeling
- Connection to SAP
- Connection to automated store control system
- Pick-to-Belt support
- Sorter support
- Wireless forklift control system
- 2 x IBM RS/6000 (HACMP)
- AIX 5.1/AIX 4.3
- Oracle tools
- Oracle database
- Psion Teklogix radio system
- 20 users

Please contact us. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

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TEAM

SUCCESS STORY

More than 600 pallets leave the logistics center in Alzey on average every day. Indeed not with Dextro Energy alone. The assortment has continuously expanded over the more than 50-year existence of the company, and it currently includes a huge range of selected food specialties, including finger food, snacks, chocolate and sweets as well as sports nutrition and high-quality maritime delicatessen products. As a result, Wilms/Impuls is one of the most important import companies for selected food from all over the world.

Wilms/Impuls provides trading companies at all levels, including wholesalers that supply pharmacies and petrol stations. 500 to 600 orders with an average of 15 – 20 positions have to be managed daily. Approximately 70 percent of these orders are received via EDI (Electronic Data Interchange), whereby the system offers the customer an ordering cycle suggestion with an indicated delivery time. The goods

are delivered within a period of 48 to 72 hours maximum, after ordering. The delivery reliability has become stable at 98 percent which is an indication that the warehousing works perfectly.

TEAM as a partner for Wilms/Impuls

The "old" warehouse software, implemented in 1996, no longer satisfied the current requirements. The order picking was too slow and it wasn't possible to implement batch tracing or carry out plant extensions that had become essential. "We knew what to improve and had ideas for the process optimization; however we needed a reliable partner with experiences in the area of trading and food warehousing to carry out the implementation", says Roland Gosse, project manager at Wilms/Impuls.

A product requirement document was compiled and the search for competent experts quickly led to TEAM. Negotiations began in the summer of 2002, after that things accelerated ra-

pidly. Three months later, the company decided to close a contract with TEAM. The functional specification document was drawn up after a further quarter and it only took six months thereafter until ProStore® controlled the management of the warehouse and the internal goods movement.

ProStore® organizes the processes

ProStore® starts working when the incoming goods have to be stored. After booking the incoming goods, the host notifies the logistics system of the articles by pallet and indicates which storage location should be selected. Over 90 percent of all goods are intended for the high rack warehouse; further storage facilities are available in the return stock, in the quality assurance stock, in the display stock and in the



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Handling incoming goods



Circulating conveyor belt provides a safe transport



Pick by Light supports the order picking



Fully automated sorting facility

“Bypass” – a transit station for incoming goods that are directly passed to a customer. ProStore® creates a pallet label, sends the pallet to the destination warehouse and informs the host about the arrival. The inventory is updated and the goods are available to be delivered.

48.000 picks per day

Speed is of the essence when the system generates shipping orders. Between the hours of 6:00 and 9:00 alone, order pickers carry out 9,000 picks. The average daily output is 25,000 picks and the top output is 48,000 picks up to date. ProStore® signals its readiness to accept further orders to the host.

Thereunto the data is usually transferred in one unit. Subsequently the system determines from which stock the articles for each individual order or rather each single order position have to be taken. An enormous picking warehouse for the ABCD-articles, which are classified according to their throughput rates, plays the central role here.

Interruption-free order picking with Floating Batches

The first step entails sophisticated re-

plenishment planning for the picking warehouse and the special storage facilities such as the display stock. It ensures the uninterrupted compilation of the orders and shipping units. ProStore® uses the existing orders to calculate the articles and quantities needed for the following day in advance.

It also determines the sequence of order processing and separates the orders in so-called batches. The system then works with the calculated amount to ensure that the equipping of the picking warehouses are optimized and it oversees the inventory during the entire order picking and supplies replenishment process thus preventing the inventory reaching “0”.

Permanent survey of the inventory and minimal replenishment spans

In the picking warehouse, the orders are collected from the pallets on the conveyor belts. Three pallets in a row are standing in special racks, parallel to the belts. In front of each pallet position is a Pick by Light light installed. ProStore® enters the order-, inventory- and picking data in a table, which is synchronized with the batches. The system knows how many batches are produced, which order they follow and which article is needed at a particular

time. The inventory situation is calculated permanently using this data, so the system knows precisely when a pallet is empty and which batch requires a new pallet. As soon as a new pallet is needed, the next one is driven into position. All this runs automatically.

ProStore® ensures permanent replenishment during the order picking process. Wilms/Impuls has opted to send up to five batches in advance in order to guarantee replenishment and avoid idle time between outsourcing from the high rack warehouse to the storage in the picking warehouse.

The use of Pick by Light

When ProStore® releases a batch for order picking, the already mentioned light indicators in front of the pallet place start to flash. The display signals the warehouse staff the amount to be picked. After the removal, the order picker pushes the receipt button so that the inventory is updated. When the amount “0” appears, the order picker either confirms that the pallet is empty or corrects the display if a remaining quantity is available.

The use of Pick by Voice

The negative order picking at Wilms/Impuls is managed using Pick by voice.

It has the advantage that a separate sector doesn't have to be reserved in the warehouse. If for example a customer only accepts pallets containing one type of merchandise, ProStore® checks if the order picking positions exceeds the limit of a free configurable percentage of a full pallet (e.g. 60 %).

If this is the case, the order is commissioned negatively using a “3-batch-method”. A number of orders are processed simultaneously. The order picker signs in to the Pick by Voice system and starts with the first article of the first order. He removes the redundant articles from the full pallet (1st batch) and puts them on the empty pallet next to it (2nd batch).

The first pallet is brought to the outgoing goods. Afterwards he continues with the same article of the second order, with the same article of the third order and so on. He repeats this until the amount of articles of the second batch is equal to the required amount of the second order. After that he puts the redundant quantities on the third pallet (3rd batch).

The two customer's pallets (1st and 2nd batch) are brought to the outgoing goods; the third pallet becomes the second batch. This procedure and

the use of Pick by Voice achieve a significant reduction of packaging efforts, a high flexibility in the handling and a reduction of errors.

Fully automated sorter in operation

The conveyors bring the picked articles to a sorting system. A high-performance scanner system identifies the article and the shipping unit (sales unit or outer packaging) and gives this information to ProStore®, which distributes the goods automatically to up to 49 chutes.

One packer controls five chutes, where he arranges the charge carriers (pallets, cartons). At this point ProStore® tells him, with which amount the charge carrier has to be packed at the particular chute.

A customer's order can consist of several charge carriers, but it is always classified with the chutes of one packer. If an order is compiled completely, a NVE-label is printed. This number of shipping unit contains all the information that's needed to identify the goods, order, customer, and transport route. An additional chutes-label gives an indication of the packer.

From that point on, the conveyor system takes over the transport to the

shipping area. Once more a scanner reads the NVE- and chutes-label and ProStore® confirms the receipt of the charge in the outgoing goods. Thereafter the charges are prepared for truck transport.

Complete traceability with clean charge picking

Needless to say, ProStore® complies with the statutory traceability requirements for vendor batches that have been compulsory since 2005. The system has precise batch-related information at each point in time and at any storage location.

Furthermore, the system ensures clean charge picking and knows exactly which article has been taken from a particular pallet, at any given point in time and when this has been discharged.

If a batch is sorted out, it has to be picked completely before the next batch can progress to the order picking area. By this measure, it is possible to reduce the vendor batch to an order-related palletbatch. This could make a substantial contribution to damage limitations in the case of a complaint.