CASE HISTORY

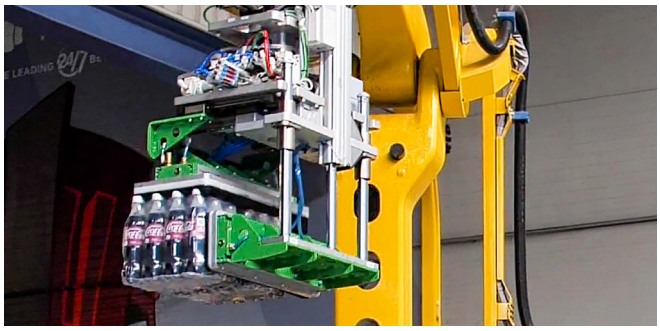
COCA COLA HBC HUNGARY

Dunaharaszti, Hungary

Beverage

The customer

Coca-Cola HBC Hungary, a member of the Coca Cola HBC AG group that serves 600 million con-sumers and operates in 29 countries, is the lead-ing producer, bottler and seller of soft drinks in the domestic market. With 1100 employees and a portfolio of more than 100 product references, including Coca-Cola, Fanta, Sprite, FUZETEA and Jack Daniel's, 90% of the company production is found within its Hungarian plant. Coca-Cola HBC Hungary, in addition to serving the domes-tic market 24/7, exports more than 40 different products to 26 additional countries.



The customer's request

A system capable of serving all of Hungary.

The production and distribution hub of Coca Cola HBC is located in the outskirts of Budapest, namely in Dunaharaszti. This is one of the sites with the highest concentration of picking activ-ities with respect to the entire Hellenic facilities in Europe. The customer, who had been search-ing for years for an innovative technology that would allow a gradual and flexible introduction of automation into its order preparation core centres, in 2019 decided to enter into a part-nership with System Logistics to develop a pilot PickMate system with the aim of validating its suitability for use within its distribution network.

The solution

Flexibility for handling customer orders and Co-Packing activities.

The pilot project focused on automating a portion of the picking volumes produced on a daily basis, initially selecting a limited number of 20 SKUs with the greatest handling ratio. At first, the project envisaged a scaled-down system that would take full advantage of the potential of anthropomorphic robots and AGVs, generating output pallets based on the specific requirements of end customers.
After a careful analysis of inbound and outbound flows of the selected products (mainly cans and PETs in sizes up to 1.5L), a tailor made system was designed that could automatically generate pallets and work 24/7 according to the type of deliveries to customers, from small retailers to large-scale retail traders.
Pickmate is the proposed solution that satisfies the two main operation modes: Monday through Friday, the system prepares mixed distribution pallets consisting of the main 20 SKUs according to the orders received from customers; during the weekend instead, PickMate focuses on co-packing with pre-sorting of low rotating SKUs and stock products sold to large-scale retailers.
The PickMate system, in this specific case, consists of 3 anthropomorphic robots equipped with different grippers depending on the types of packaging to pick. Robots pick from the mother pallets and make up the child pallets according to orders sent to SYSTORE®, System Logistics' proprietary management software, directly through the customer's ERP.
Incoming pallets to the robots, and outbound pallets to the shipping area, are managed using a fleet of AGVs of two types: LIGHT for handling mother pallets in the inbound phase, and SHARK for handling child pallets in the outbound phase, towards the shipping area.
The fully automated PickMate system is capable of preparing the first load overnight, store it in the shipping area and make it available for shipment when the plant opens. Over the weekend and always in full autonomy, the system prepares pallets for large-scale distribution.

Strengths

- Flexibility of the PickMate system for food&beverage product management.
- SYSTORE®, the software with Best Fitting suite, optimizes space and wedges products onto pallets.
- Wearisome and dangerous man labour is eliminated.
- System reconfigurable in both functions and layout (size and number of technologies).

« The customer chose System Logistics because of the innovative idea that the PickMate system brought to the world of APS. Its flexibility ensures its suitability to handle future products with a preparation target of 600 pallets/hour ».

Yuri Pedrazzi,
Project Manager System Logistics.