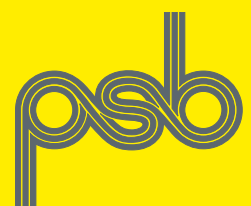




psb Best Practice

Next Distribution

Highly efficient
e-commerce solution



CREATING YOUR
INTRALOGISTICS

Next Distribution



Automated returned item storage and picking system »RSPS«

Customer

Next Distribution Ltd.
South Elmsall
West Yorkshire / UK

System

Automated warehouse with more than 100 *vario.sprinter* shuttles, 16 *rotapick* order picking stations, 12 replenishment (top-up) stations, conveyors, *selektron* WMS and *selektron* SCADA

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The Next retail chain trades from more than 500 stores in the UK plus Eire and over 200 stores in more than 40 countries overseas. In 1999 online shopping was introduced. Next still continues to improve customer service, introducing new initiatives such as same day delivery as standard to orders placed before 12 a.m. At the Next warehousing location, South Elmsall, returned mail-order items are buffered and directly picked for new orders.

Design criteria

Among the larger pick quantities for the retail stores, the e-commerce operation requires a fast growing number of small orders delivered to private households. This order structure, with extremely short processing times, plus the growing number of returns, involves all warehouse processes, and demands a highly efficient returns management.

The solution

The new solution allows for a well-coordinated integrated intralogistics system, by combining warehousing and order picking operations. Special focus is put on a very high degree of flexibility, redundancy and system availability.

In the system installation, more than 100 psb *vario.sprinter* shuttles are operated; they are connected, via a dynamic conveyor system, with 16 psb *rotapick* high performance order picking modules and 12 tote replenishment (top-up) stations.

Warehouse management and organization are controlled by the psb *selektron* WMS control system. It comprises all aspects of stock handling, e.g., the administration of the order picking batches, the permanent supply of the *rotapick* stations, replenishment of the storage totes, plus displaying and communicating key performance indicators. The installation is monitored by the psb *selektron* SCADA visualization system.

