Advanced automotive logistics

Walter Schmitt: Optimized warehouse processes for the production-synchronous supply of engines, transmissions and axles.

Walter Schmitt serves the automotive sector with sophisticated warehousing processes to manage supplies just in time and in the right sequence.

Walter Schmitt GmbH places great importance on a holistic approach. Founded in 1948, the logistics service company is headquartered in Germany and provides integrated warehousing and transport services for customers in various industries. These services include storage, picking, assembly and in-house logistics. The company provides these services for well-known automobile manufacturers in particular, for whom it also takes over the synchronous production provision of individual parts and complete aggregates.

For several years, Walter Schmitt has relied on Infios's industry-specific Warehouse Management System (WMS) to supply engines, transmissions and axles on demand. At additional locations, Walter Schmitt was looking for suitable supply chain solutions and turned to Infios once again.

At a glance

Project goals

- Automated, demand driven supply and replenishment control
- Increased efficiency for JIT/JIS delivery
- Integrated empties processing

Solution

- Infios Warehouse Management (WM)

Features and benefits

- Consolidated view of orders, customers and external partners
- Increased efficiency in all repacking and packing areas
- Continuous improvement processes

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At the Aggregate Sequencing Centres (ASCs) in Durmersheim and Germersheim, Germany, and at the Plant Consolidation Centre (PCC) in Ötigheim, Germany, Walter Schmitt sought a solution to support the synchronous, sophisticated control of production processes for commercial vehicles.

However, Walter Schmitt's requirements present specific challenges. The creation of production sets by multiple suppliers requires "just-in-time" (JIT) and "just-in-sequence" (JIS) processes to ensure that the production of parts is carried out correctly, despite the fact that more than 10,000 different articles and around 5,000 carriers need to be managed each day.

The Infios WM solution fulfills all warehouse logistics requirements for the automotive industry, including in-time and in-sequence processing. With integrated pre-supplier control, the entire procurement process of the supply chain can be managed.

However, at all Walter Schmitt system-supported locations, special requirements must be considered that call for specific WMS modifications. This process began in Durmersheim and Germersheim, Germany, where engines, axles and transmissions are delivered to the assembly line. Meanwhile, parts from Mannheim, Gaggenau and Rastatt, Germany, converge at Walter Schmitt, where they are prepared synchronously for automobile production in Wörth am Rhein, Germany. The WMS delivers axles just-in-time (JIT), whereas engines and transmissions are supplied just-in-sequence (JIS).

On site process sequences are complex, requiring sophisticated differentiation logic. In addition, engines and aggregates are delivered in their own racks, so that the sequence to be delivered cannot be ensured in process rack formation, but must be created and checked by the WMS during provision and loading.

The parts are loaded onto trailers in precise sequences so that they can be removed from the trailer for production in the correct order and assembled on the conveyor belt. Walter Schmitt, perfectly organized, thus supports both series production and the manufacture of SKD (semi knocked down) or CKD (completely knocked down) kits for partial assembly.

At the CKD, parts are primarily prepared for export—a speciality of the Mannheim location of Walter Schmitt. The 14,000 sqm warehouse managed by Infios WM is used for shipping parts worldwide. A particular highlight is the fully integrated gantry crane system with six repacking stations where engines are prepared for export.

In 2017, this was followed by the extensive expansion of the 35,000 sqm Plant Consolidation Centre (PCC) in Ötigheim, Germany. From this location, Walter Schmitt supplies two other sites with raw and finished parts. In three shifts, items of all kinds, ranging from containers to small package carriers (SPCs), are repacked.

> "The powerful software solution from Infios has all necessary functions that supply processes for production and assembly in the automotive supplier sector require (JIT, JIS, SKD, CKD). However, it also enables processes to be continuously improved, meaning the company is optimally prepared for the future."
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> **Benjamin Sommer**
> Project Management, Walter Schmitt GmbH

Infios WM is used to control orders for planning all goods, approximately 6,000 packages per day, based on demand and time. In addition, the intelligent software solution also handles stock and replenishment control and empties handling. Moreover, the system supports continuous optimization processes, for example via interleaving, which links internal warehouse processes, e.g. warehousing, replenishment and picking to reduce empty transports to a minimum.

Overall, Walter Schmitt increased transparency in individual areas and across locations using Infios WM. This was made possible by providing a consolidated view of customers and orders, particularly in so-called n-n relationships with pre-suppliers, logistics service providers, suppliers, and OEMs, which are displayed in the WMS. With an industry-specific Warehouse Management System from Infios, Walter Schmitt can reliably synchronize and manage engines and aggregates for over 400 vehicles per day. The logistics service provider is also well equipped for future growth.

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