


## **LFS 400**

 Warehouse Management by E+P

**Logistics service provider Transdanubia:**

**Pick-by-Voice at -27 °C**

**LFS 400**



**EHRHARDT+PARTNER**

**Software Systems  
for Warehouse Logistics**

# Transdanubia stores for Schöller: warehousing at -27 °C

Schöller foods are stored at -27° C in the new low temperature central warehouse of the Austrian logistics service provider Transdanubia. This does not only demand a lot from the warehouse employees, but also from the warehouse technologies. Supported by low temperature capable RFs and Pick-by-Voice equipment, the warehouse management system LFS 400 of the supplier E+P takes care that all the processes from the goods reception across the picking to the goods dispatch work optimal.



In only six weeks, E+P implemented the warehouse-management-system in the newly built warehouse in Pasching near Linz. An announced big order by Schöller was deciding for the construction of the low temperature warehouse. Furthermore, about a dozen of clients of Transdanubia use the warehouse which is managed by the multiple-client-capable warehouse management system LFS 400. Before the erection of the 3,000 square meters big warehouse, Transdanubia had a low temperature warehouse, but here only up to 400 full pallets were stored. For comparison: in the new high-rack warehouse, today up to 4,200 pallets are stored. “In our old warehouse, it was the responsibility of the employees to know which pallet had to be put where”, Volker Bauer, responsible Transdanubia project leader for the implementation of LFS 400, describes the situation in the old warehouse.

## Project requirements

With the future volume of demands of 10,000 to 20,000 picking processes per day – and that for the client Schöller only – this type of working is no longer practicable. So, the persons in charge with Transdanubia decided the new construction of the warehouse and the introduction of an efficient warehouse management system. Amongst the four well-known suppliers from Germany and Austria,

the persons in charge with Transdanubia decided in favour of the system by E+P. “One criterion for the selection was surely that we wanted to have a system that runs with the AS/400. We have already used the AS/400 for many years and are completely convinced from the advantages”, project leader Bauer remarks. Transdanubia CEO Herbert Piwonka adds: “We have decided in favour of this system, because our persons in charge of the EDP and the leaders in the warehouse section considered the system to be good.” Another decisive argument for E+P was the opportunity of using the LFS 400 together

with the Pick-by-Voice technology. “For the first time, we saw and examined the Pick-by-Voice in the E+P logistics presentation centre. We were directly convinced by the advantages of this picking technique. When the supplier IND then demonstrated that his Voice-equipment also work perfectly at low temperatures, we decided to use the Pick-by-Voice in our warehouse, too”, Werner Gupfinger, manager of the low temperature warehouse, remembers.



## Picking with Pick-by-Voice

One decisive advantage of this technology is that the picker can use both hands freely, because he has neither to handle a RF nor hold a picking list. This way, the employee can pick goods simultaneously to the voice-controlled entering of data. This is especially important in the low temperature section, where special protection clothes such as gloves, are requested.

With Transdanubia, the employees wear a small low temperature resistant communication unit on their belt and can communicate with the warehouse management system on the AS/400 (IBM iSeries) via an attached headset.

LFS 400 leads the picker to the storage locations and instructs him which item to pick and in which quantity. That way, the picking speed is accelerated from 25 up to 30 %. Due to the different control steps in the voice-dialogue, a complex final control of the picked goods is now no longer necessary." The process is made extremely efficient and precise by the Pick-by-Voice, Transdanubia can expect very short process times and with that very low process costs", Marco Ehrhardt, one of the associates of E+P, explains.

The direction of the LFS concerning the optimisation of costs and distances is shown in every step of working in the low temperature warehouse: the system communicates via an EDIFACT-interface with the superior HOST-system from Schöller. From there, the LFS 4000



receives via DESADV an advance notice if a delivery is at issue.

If a truck arrives at the good receipt, it is assigned to one of the five gates equipped with temperature locks. A fork lift driver unloads the goods and checks if they already have a SSCC label. For each load unit that has not yet been labelled, the LFS 400 creates a new SSCC-number that is registered in the system and can be continued.

The printer of those labels is kept in a temperature resistant cabin for reasons of protection. The labels themselves are low temperature resistant special labels. After all the pallets have been registered in the system, the fork lift driver's RF indicates the bin locations for the storage. Here, LFS 400 is able to assign a pallet to a place in the predetermined temperature zone according to the predefined criteria. While storing the pallets, the driver confirms the corresponding storage location by scanning the barcode on the high rack.

## Loading according to trans-shipment places and routes

With the above-mentioned EDIFACT-interface, the LFS 400 is also announced Schöller's picking orders via ORDERS. By this connection with the major customer Schöller, the manager of the low temperature warehouse consequently has a much higher security of planning. After picking with the support of the Voice-equipment, the warehouse employee is advised to take the rolling container with the



picked goods to the consolidation place. There, the goods are sorted according to the trans-shipment points and routes, also combined and finally loaded. "We ultimately pick within the period from 3 pm to 12 pm for Schöller and our other low temperature clients. In the court, there are 5 docking stations for truck-bridges, via which the supply with electricity is ensured. The truck driver can than come at five in the morning and pick up their completely loaded bridge", logistician Werner Gupfinger reports.

## Complete tracing of batches

Transdanubia is able through the introduction of the LFS 400 to guarantee a constant tracing of batches and products with the aid of a constant inventory maintenance via the SSCC-labelling. In the goods receipt, the LFS 400 creates a new SSCC-number for goods that have not been labelled before. This allows a clear identification and tracing of the goods – also with picked pallets on which are SSCCs of different origin. Apart from the conformance to the EU regulation 178/2002, the LFS 400 also allows the observation of the expiration dates with that function. The system makes sure that the pallet of an item which BBD runs out first is picked first.

## Results in an overview

Through the implementation of the LFS 400, Transdanubia has accomplished the following results:

- The introduction of the LFS 400 was realised in a very short time – within only 6 weeks.
- Through the Pick-by-Voice technology, the logistics service provider optimises the picking process, reduces picking errors and avoids time-intensive final controls. With the Pick-by-Voice technology, the picking speed is elevated from 20 to 30 percent.
- With the multiple-client-capable LFS 400, Transdanubia manages other clients next to Schöller and realises the inventory maintenance of all items via SSCC.
- Through the implementation of the LFS 400, the logistics service provider meets all the requirements of the EU regulation 178/2002. LFS 400 supervises the expiration dates of the goods and makes sure that those dates are respected as well as the FIFO-principle during picking.
- By the connection of the EDIFACT-interface with the superior SAP-Host-system of the client Schöller, the manager of the low temperature warehouse has a higher planning security.
- Despite temperatures of -27°C, the LFS 400 works perfectly with the remote data terminals and the Voice-equipment and guarantees the readout of the SSCC-labels.
- LFS 400 allows the loading of the picked goods according to trans-shipment points and routes in only one step.
- The Transdanubia clients have access to the inventory as well as to the status of the order processing via Internet.



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