

PRESS RELEASE 04/2025

cargo-partner enhances efficiency at the iLogistics Center Vienna with “AutoStore”

The international transport and logistics provider is the first freight forwarder in Austria to implement the innovative AutoStore system at its iLogistics Center next to Vienna International Airport. The system sets new standards in efficiency and service.

cargo-partner, a group company of NIPPON EXPRESS HOLDINGS, INC., is automating processes at the iLogistics Center Vienna with the implementation of a new AutoStore system. The extensive project was initiated some time ago. Together with Fraunhofer, one of Europe’s leading applied research organizations, cargo-partner selected a suitable partner to optimize the logistics processes at the iLogistics Center Vienna and effectively fulfill the increasing demand for efficient warehouse solutions. The system is set to go live in mid-2025, but the first milestones have already been achieved – starting with structural modifications last fall to prepare for the AutoStore installation.

Advantages of automated small parts storage

The AutoStore® system by HÖRMANN Intralogistics offers numerous advantages, from flexibility and scalability to significantly increased efficiency. Krisztián Haslinger, Project Manager Contract Logistics at cargo-partner, explains: “With the new AutoStore system, we will be able to further streamline our operations and serve our customers’ growing demands more efficiently. This project supports our goal of making our contract logistics solutions more sustainable and user-friendly.”

The compact design of the system increases storage efficiency. AutoStore stacks bins without gaps, significantly reducing the required floor space. Additionally, it maximizes bin capacity by allowing multiple products to be stored together in the same bin. This enables optimal use of the mezzanine level at the iLogistics Center Vienna.

The goods handling process is now more efficient, shifting from a “man-to-goods” approach to “goods-to-man.” Robots deliver items directly to employees, speeding up processing. Rather than replacing the existing workforce, the new system supports and enhances it. Additionally, ergonomic workstations reduce physical strain, helping to boost overall team capacity.

Details of the AutoStore® System

The AutoStore® system is installed on the mezzanine level of the existing warehouse hall. Covering 500 m², its aluminum grid structure measures 15.4 m x 22.6 m x 6.5 m and can hold 14,680 containers – expandable to 21,030 across 16 levels. The setup includes seven robots, charging stations, and five workstation modules (three “Carousel” and two “Swingport”) with a “BinLift” connecting to the ground floor. Frames for future expansion are already in place. The flow of goods is managed by HÖRMANN’s HiLIS warehouse management system, customized to meet cargo-partner’s specific needs.

Project Progress and Outlook

The full system launch is planned for mid-2025, but the first milestones have already been achieved: At the end of January, the AutoStore system was successfully activated, and the first super-user training sessions were conducted. During a one-day training session, selected cargo-partner employees had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the AutoStore system and learn how it will transform their work. These employees will then pass on their knowledge to their colleagues, preparing the entire team for the new standard.

Barbara Marais, Team Leader Logistics, who participated in the training, reported: “The new AutoStore system will make our work more efficient and structured. The robots will take over repetitive tasks, allowing us to focus on more complex activities.” The next step is filling the storage containers. Once completed, the containers will be integrated into the system, followed by performance tests and additional user training sessions.

The award-winning iLogistics Center Vienna sets benchmarks not only in logistics but also in construction: Since its opening in 2018, the sustainable timber construction has saved 8,400 tons of

CO₂. With the implementation of AutoStore, this innovative approach is now being carried forward – for an even more efficient and sustainable warehouse solution.

Vienna, March 18, 2025

About cargo-partner

cargo-partner, a group company of NIPPON EXPRESS HOLDINGS, INC., is a full-range info-logistics provider offering a comprehensive portfolio of air, sea, land transport and warehousing solutions. With over 40 years of expertise in information technology and supply chain optimization, the company designs tailor-made services for a wide range of industries to create competitive benefits for its customers all around the world. Founded in 1983, cargo-partner generated a turnover of over 1.3 billion euro in 2023 and currently employs more than 3,800 people worldwide.

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