

# ***Is Automation Right for You?***

## ***Case Study on Cost Reduction through DC Automation, Process and IT Optimization***

Sponsored by:



Presented by:

**Rupert Hoecherl**

Senior Consultant, Logistics & Supply  
Chain Management

**Marco Lederle**

Operations Manager



# Content

- Introduction
- Challenges in Aftersales
- Case Study
  - Overview
  - Process
  - Automation
  - IT
- Timeline / Methodology
- KPIs and Summary

# Introduction – Speaker Information

## Marco Lederle

- Master of Science in Business Information Systems
- 9 years experience large scale IT Automation, Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) and PCS (Process Control Systems and SCADA) projects within the BioPharm industry
- International experience from assignments in Europe, USA and Asia involving managing geographically distributed project teams working in a multi-cultural environment.
- Focus on Strategic Planning, URS/FRS development, EBR design and Project Management
- Currently serves as Operations Manager for the US office of i+o located in Bethlehem, PA.

# Introduction – Speaker Information

## Rupert Hoecherl

- Master of Science in Industrial Engineering
- 5 years of experience in large scale distribution center planning and supply chain management projects in aftersales and production related environments.
- International experience from assignments in Europe, USA and the Middle East involving managing geographically distributed project teams working in a multi-cultural environment.
- Focus on Strategic Planning, Implementation, Ramp-Up Support and Project Management.
- Currently serves as Senior Consultant in Logistics and Supply Chain Management for the US office of i+o located in Bethlehem, PA.

# Introduction – Overview

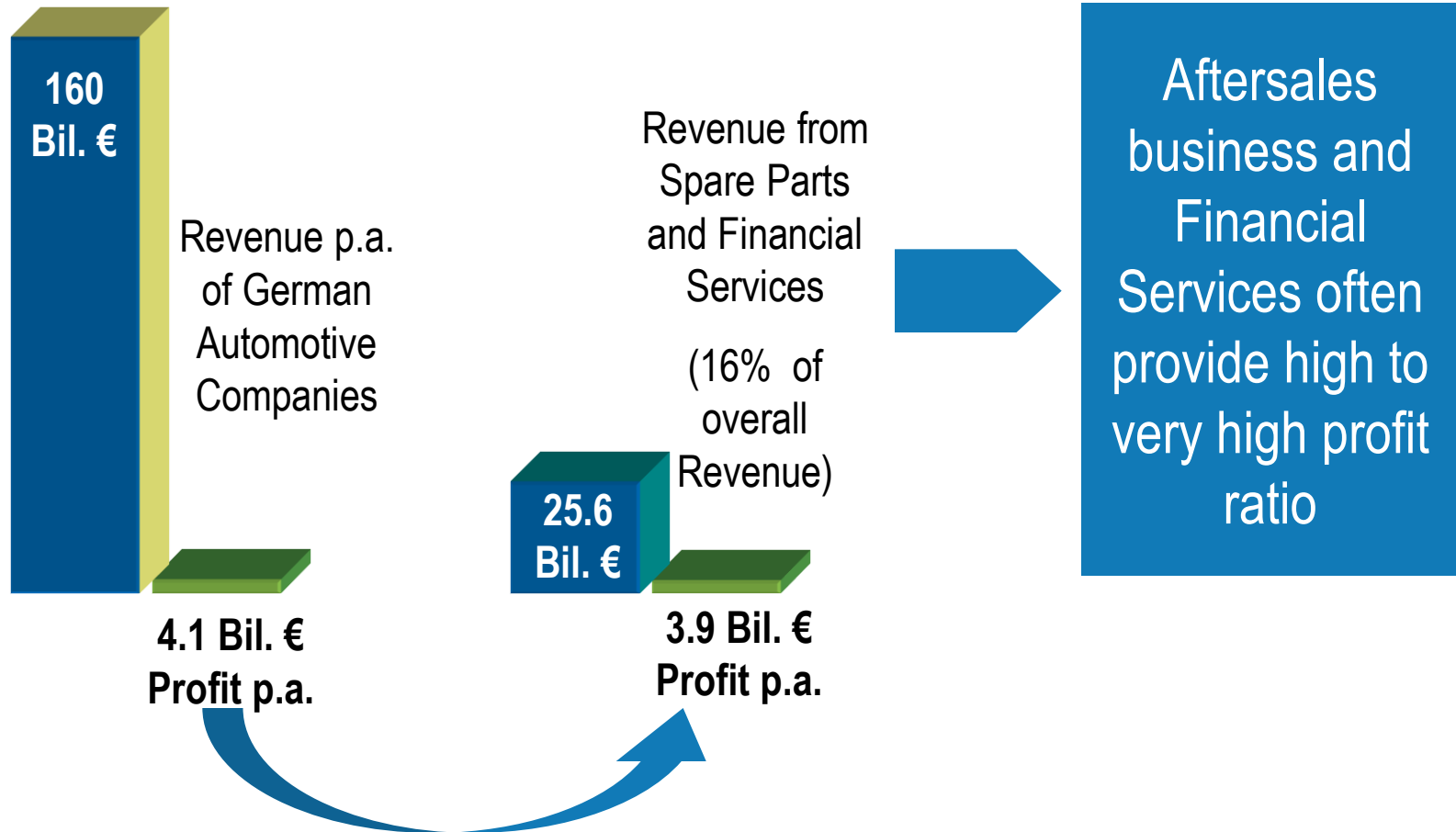
## io-consultants - A Global Consulting Group

- io-consultants ([www.io-consultants.com](http://www.io-consultants.com)) is an international consulting group (established 1958) that provides services (Logistics, Supply Chain Management, IT Automation, Flight Catering) that are independent from software, hardware and solution providers

## Case Study: Aftersales Logistics for Diesel Engines

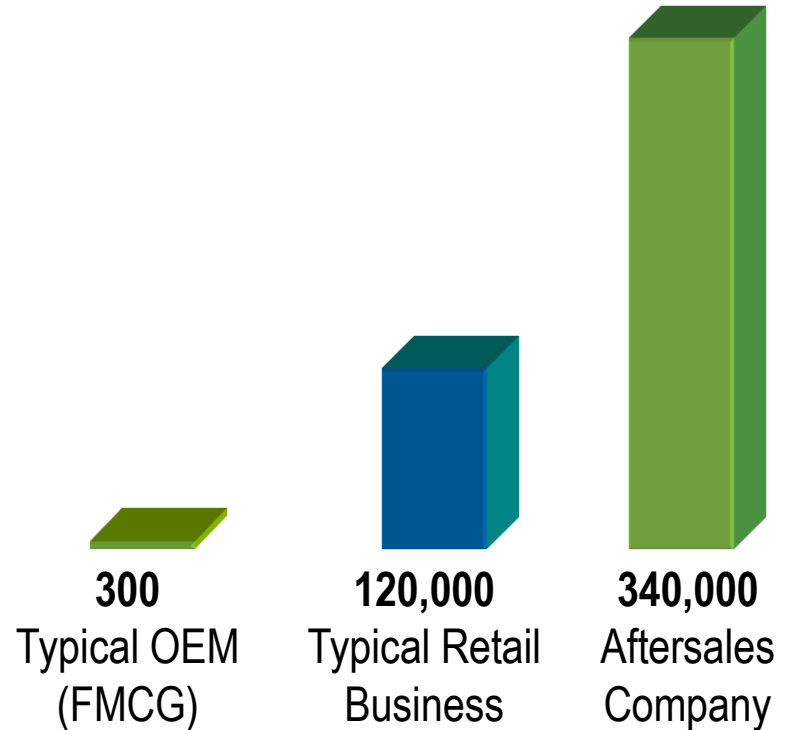
- Benchmarking through standardization
- Service requirements are increasingly global
- Keeping control of Aftersales Logistics

# Why Aftersales is an Important Business



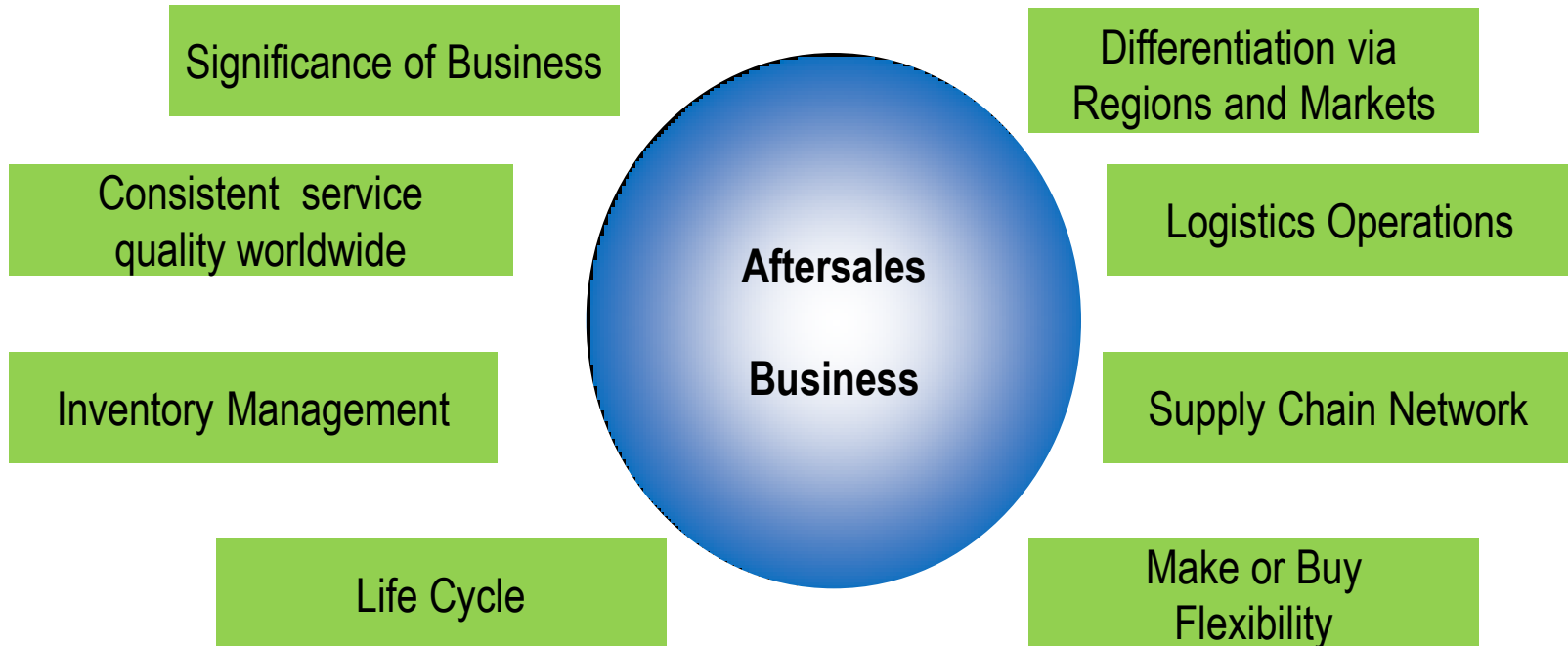
# Typical Challenges for Aftersales Supply Chain

- Extremely high number of items (e.g. new models) often with low to zero pick frequency
- Inventory reduction vs. very high availability requirements (first-fill-rate)
- High customer service expectations (e.g. same-day delivery)
- Parts variety by size, weight & storage requirements
- Optimize the current logistical footprint and overall Supply Chain Network
- Prepare the business for future growth



**Extraordinary number of different parts requires specific logistics**

# Aftersales Logistics in Focus



**How to improve?**



# Case Study – Aftersales Logistics

## Starting Point

- Large engine manufacturer with global logistics operations in 3 distinct worldwide regions
- All regions operate as separate organizations, with different processes, systems (IT, Logistics) and locations
- North American operations was outsourced
- Renewal of contract was evaluated
- Expected increase in sales and customer service level (e.g. next-day delivery) would have not been able to be supported by 3PL
- Evaluation of processes from a global perspective

# Case Study – Aftersales Logistics

## Starting Point

The decision was made to re-integrate all aftersales operations in-house for North America including:

- Setup of a new distribution center operation
- New IT System

With the requirements of a global aftersales organization the following goals were defined:

- Standardized processes across all regions
- One global IT system
- Global standards in systems and operations

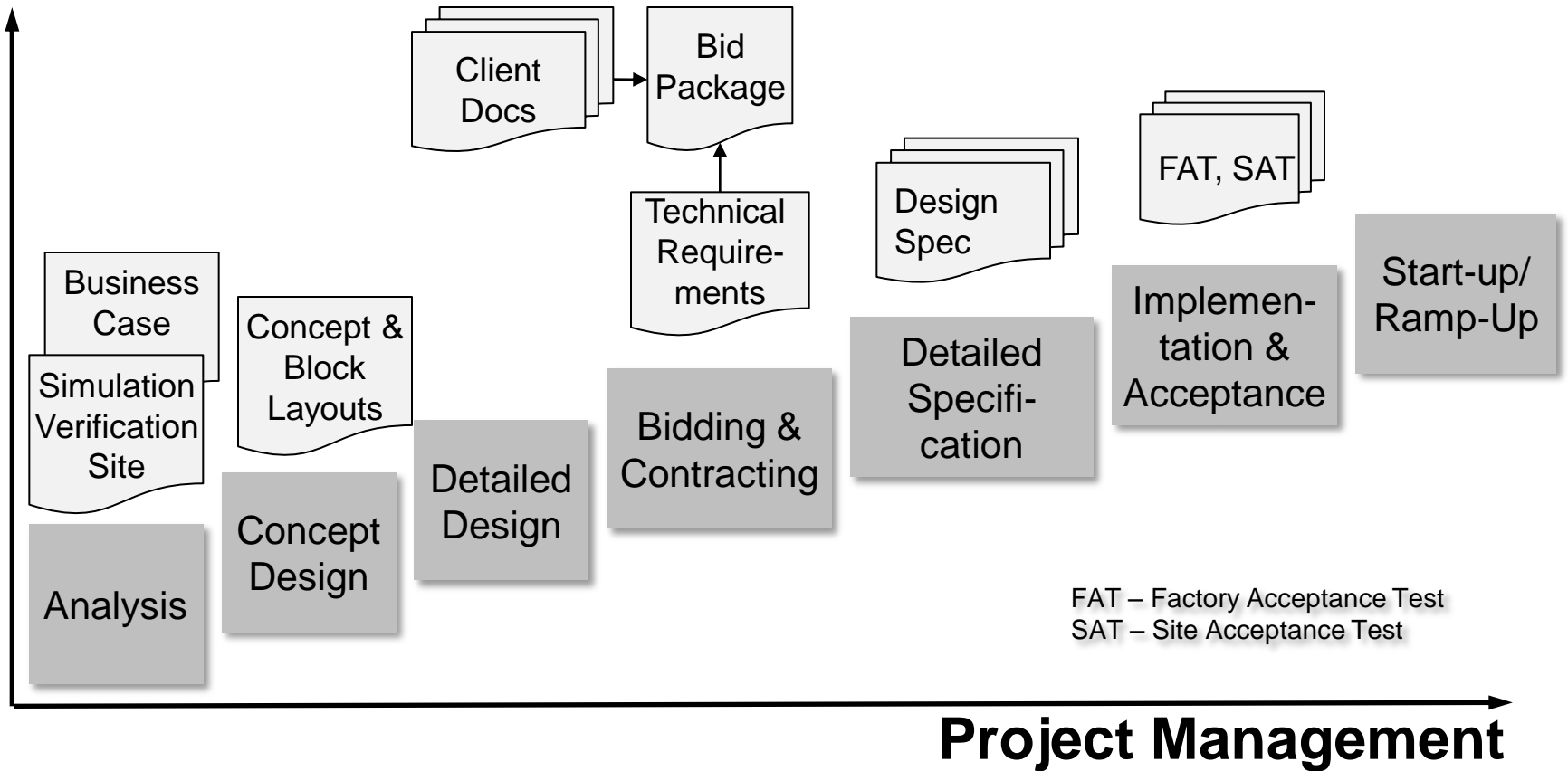
# Case Study – Aftersales Logistics

## Starting Point: Facts & Figures

- Approx. 50,000 different SKUs from small o-rings to 12-ton crank cases
- Up-to approx. 3,000 order lines fulfilled daily
- Prepacking to streamline outbound process
- Conservation operations to protect material
- Kitting of more than 1,000 different kits produced in flexible Kit-to-Stock and Kit-to-Order process
- Picking strategy: work-to-man

# Case Study

## Project Approach



# Case Study

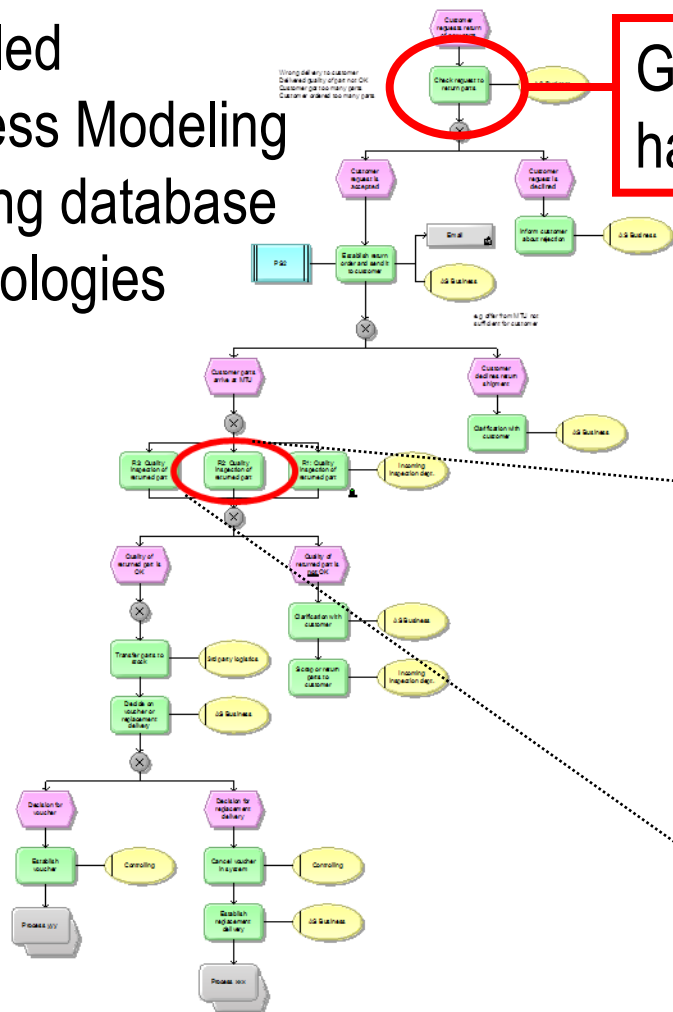
## Process Standardization

- Across 3 sites on 3 continents
- Global process template; local adjustments required for special processes not present globally
- Dramatic changes to “used process” required early change management and communication strategy
- Improved support and comparison (KPIs) on a global scale w/ comparable operations

# Case Study

## Process Standardization

Detailed  
Process Modeling  
utilizing database  
technologies



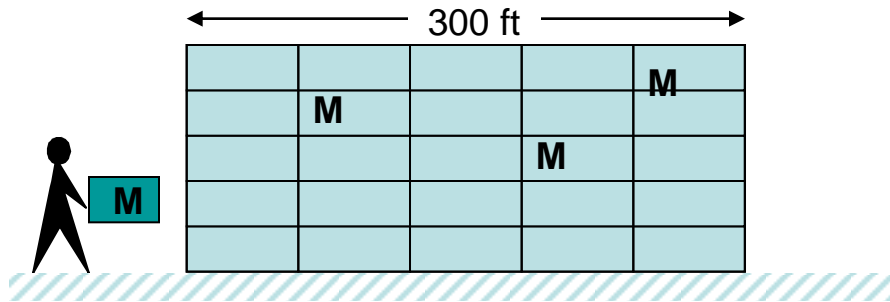
Global process to handle part returns

Local process for Quality Inspection



# Case Study

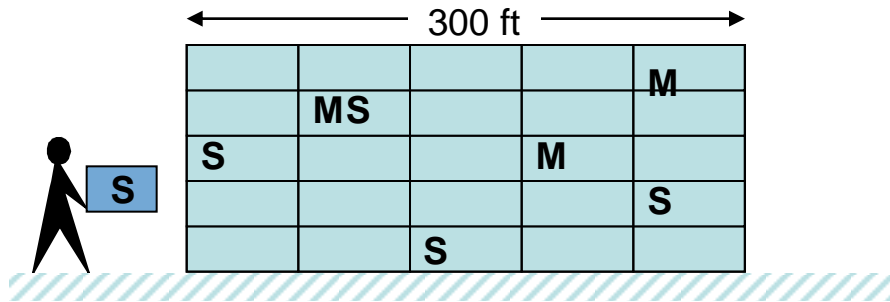
## Order Picking Strategies (1)



1. Supermarket (M):  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{3Pos} = 100 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$

# Case Study

## Order Picking Strategies (2)

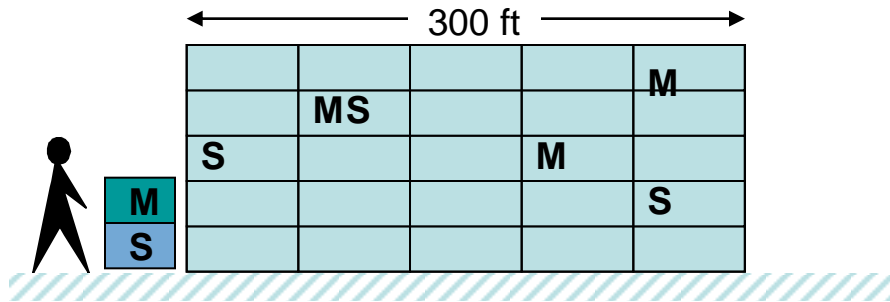


1. Supermarket (M):  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{3Pos} = 100 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
1. Supermarket (S):  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{4Pos} = 75 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$



# Case Study

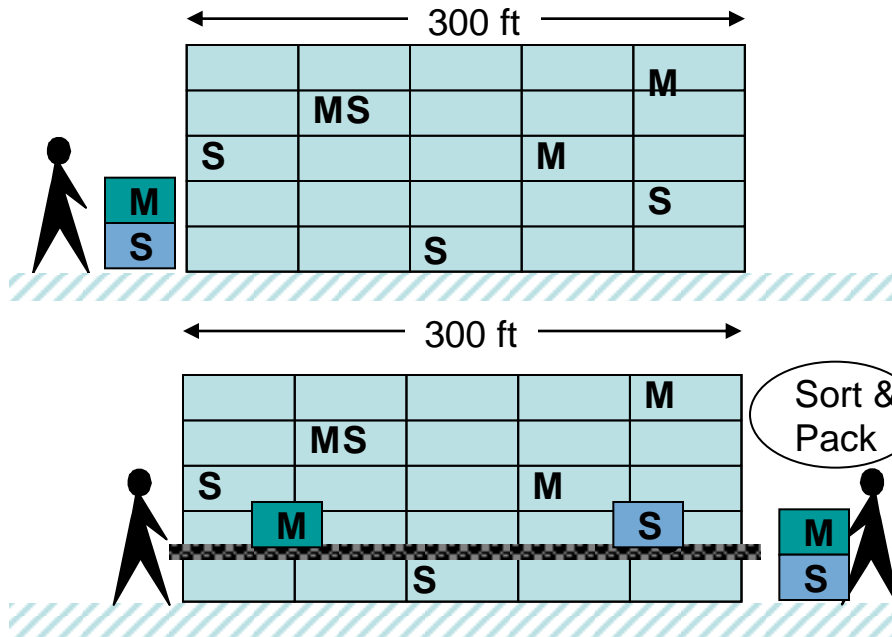
## Order Picking Strategies (3)



1. Supermarket (M):  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{3Pos} = 100 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
1. Supermarket (S):  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{4Pos} = 75 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
2. Multi-Order-Picking:  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{7Pos} = 43 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$

# Case Study

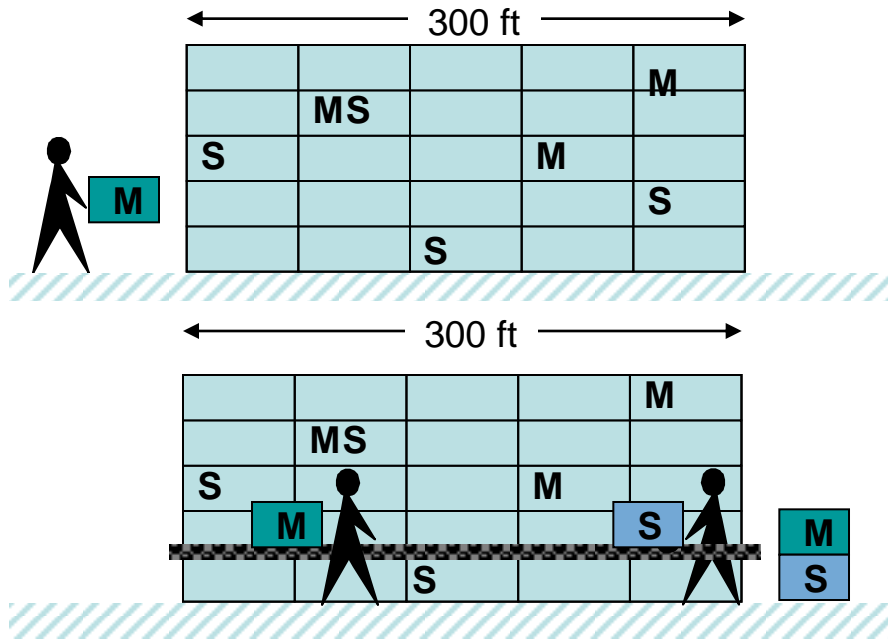
## Order Picking Strategies (4)



1. Supermarket (M):  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{3Pos} = 100 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
1. Supermarket (S):  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{4Pos} = 75 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
2. Multi-Order-Picking:  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{7Pos} = 43 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
3. Pick & Sort → multiple order per tote

# Case Study

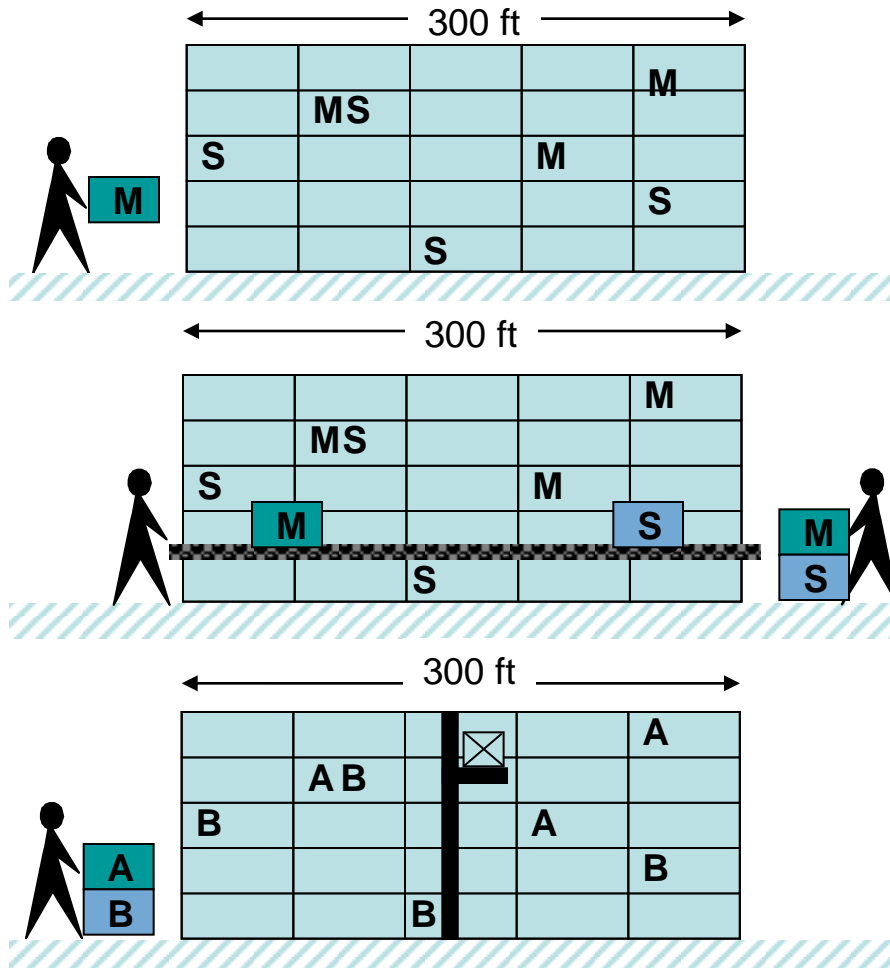
## Order Picking Strategies (5)



1. Supermarket (M):  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{3Pos} = 100 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
1. Supermarket (S):  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{4Pos} = 75 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
2. Multi-Order-Picking:  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{7Pos} = 43 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
3. Pick & Sort → multiple order picking
4. Pick & Pass → single order picking

# Case Study

## Order Picking Strategies (6)



1. Supermarket (M):  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{3Pos} = 100 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
1. Supermarket (S):  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{4Pos} = 75 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
2. Multi-Order-Picking:  $\frac{300 \text{ ft.}}{7Pos} = 43 \frac{\text{ft.}}{Pos}$
3. Pick & Sort → multiple order picking
4. Pick & Pass → single order picking

How do I determine the right solution for my application?

# Case Study

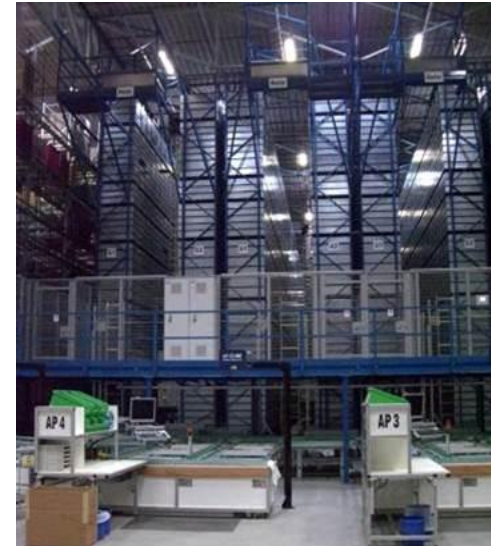
## Automated vs. Manual – Overview

- Goal is to determine the most suitable storage system for small and medium parts (up to 35lbs)
- Comparison of multi-order picking in a two-tier shelving systems vs. a work-to-man picking strategy in an automated storage and retrieval system (AS/RS) loaded with trays (48in x 24in)

### Manual Shelf-system (2-tier)



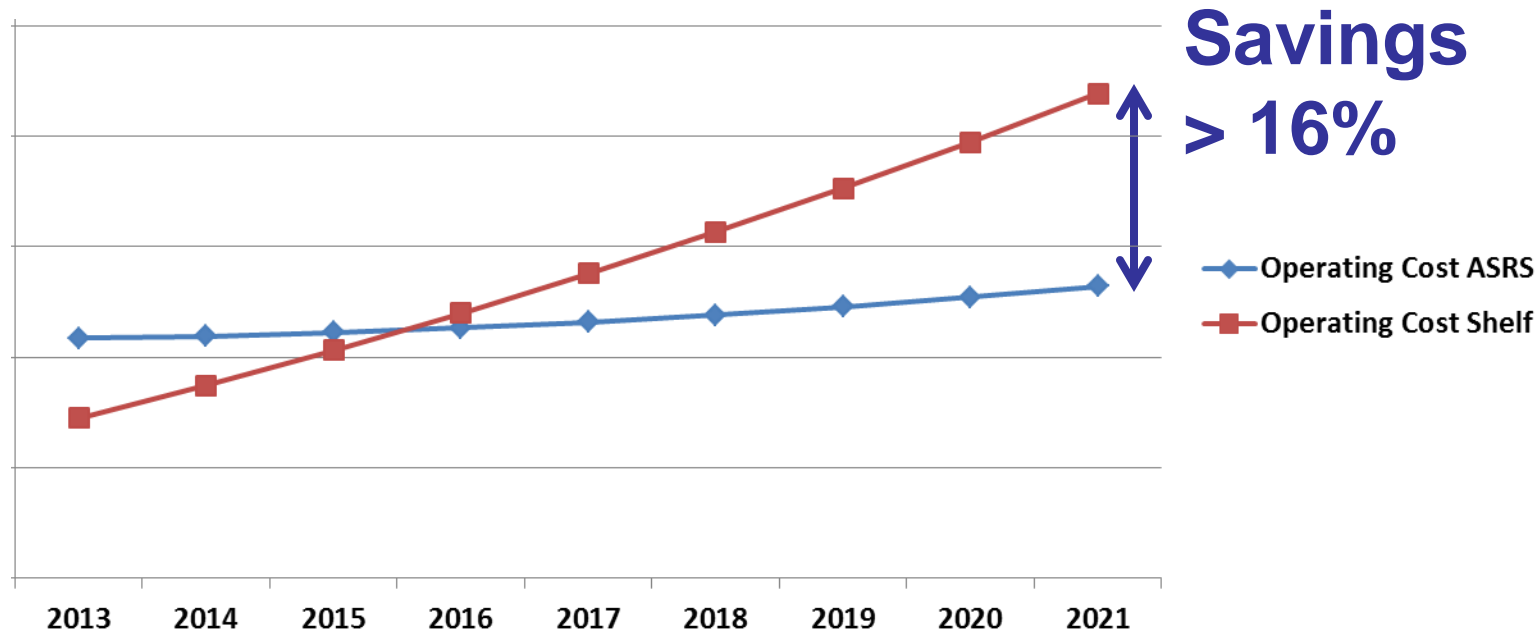
### AS/RS – miniload



# Case Study

## Automated vs. Manual - Operating Cost

Graph shows annual operating cost including depreciation on construction cost and system invest from 2013 – 2021:

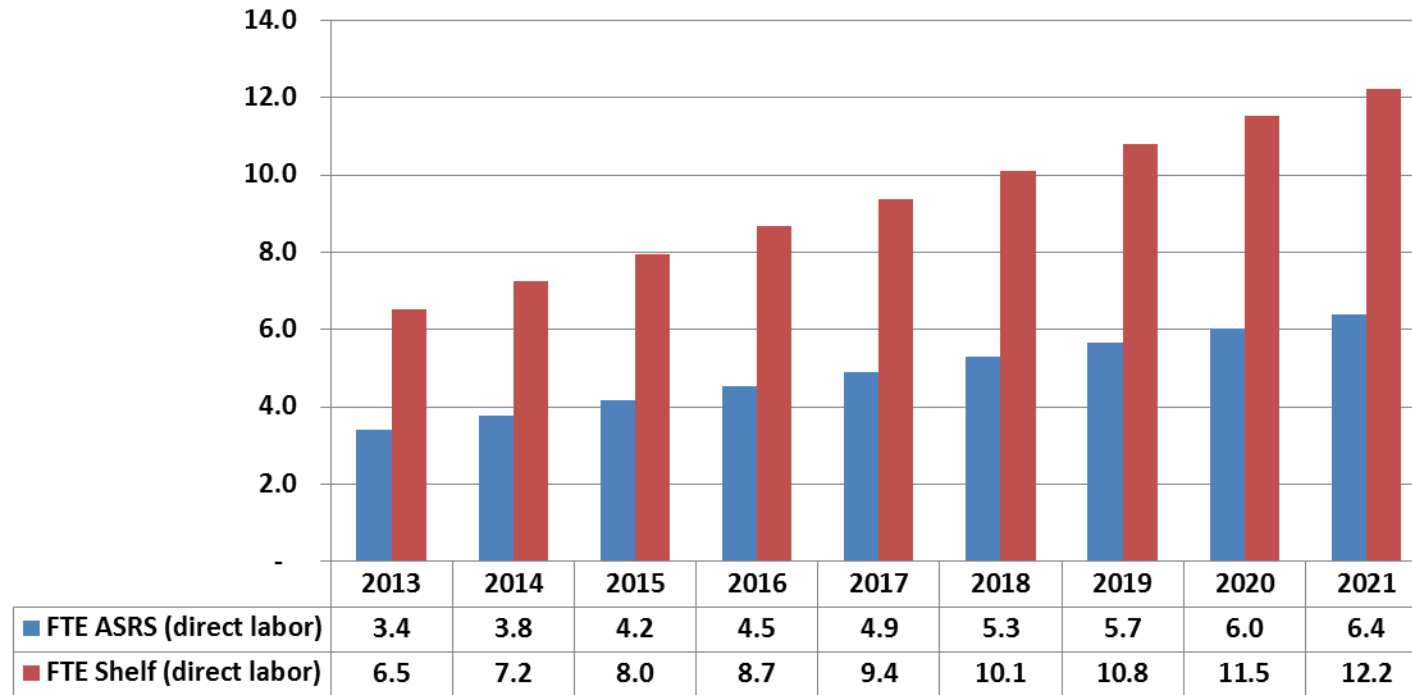


Break-Even in annual operating cost (including depreciation) is reached after approx. 3 years, providing annual savings of more than \$170,000

# Case Study

## Automated vs. Manual – Headcount

Graph shows comparison of direct labor per system from 2013 – 2021:



Based on current assumptions and expected increase in volume ASRS-system provides annual savings in labor of up to 5.8 FTE.

# Case Study

## Automated vs. Manual – Summary

### Shelf-rack (2-level)

#### Advantages

- Medium picking performance
- High level of flexibility
- Fail-safe-system
- Low maintenance-cost
- Low IT-requirements (no subsystem /interface)

#### Disadvantages

- Picker-to-part-principle
- Ineffective space utilization
- High labor input
- Picking accuracy
- Low ergonomics while picking

### AS/RS

#### Advantages

- High picking performance
- Effective space utilization
- Fully automated storage and retrieval processes
- Very high picking accuracy
- Excellent ergonomics at picking stations

#### Disadvantages

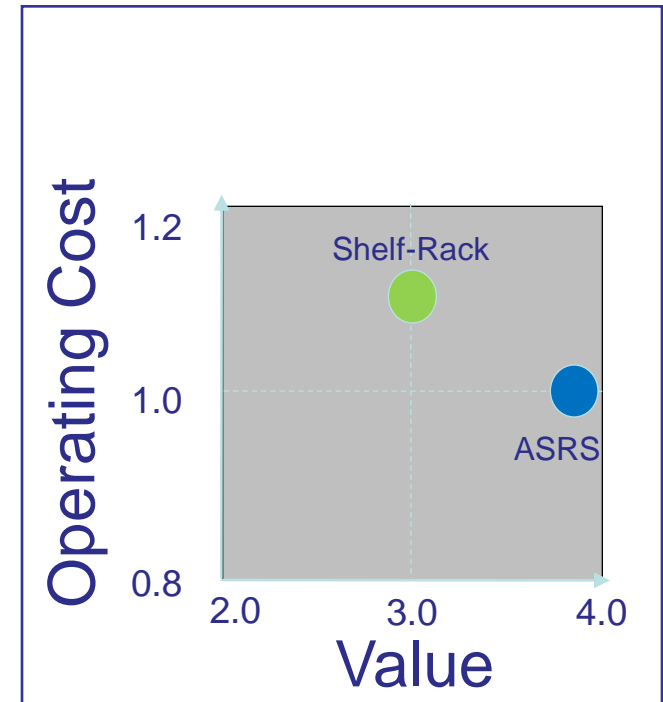
- Lack of flexibility
- Difficult timeline
- High to very high invest
- No access during breakdown
- Additional IT Requirements (Subsystem)
- Special building requirements (e.g. floor)



# Case Study

## Site Comparison

	Value (qualitative comparison)	Operating Cost (normalized)	
AS/RS	3.9	1.0	●
Shelf-Rack	3.0	1.1	●



**Conclusion:** The proposed automated storage and retrieval system is the preferred picking strategy for small and medium parts.

# Case Study

## IT Standardization

- Standardized processes supported through a standard (global) IT system
- Global template with localization (e.g. Units of measure, language, finances, customs, special processes)
- One common platform → better acceptance for user, faster roll-out for subsequent facilities, improved maintainability
- Reduction of interfaces and complexity
- Improved transparency of information

# Case Study

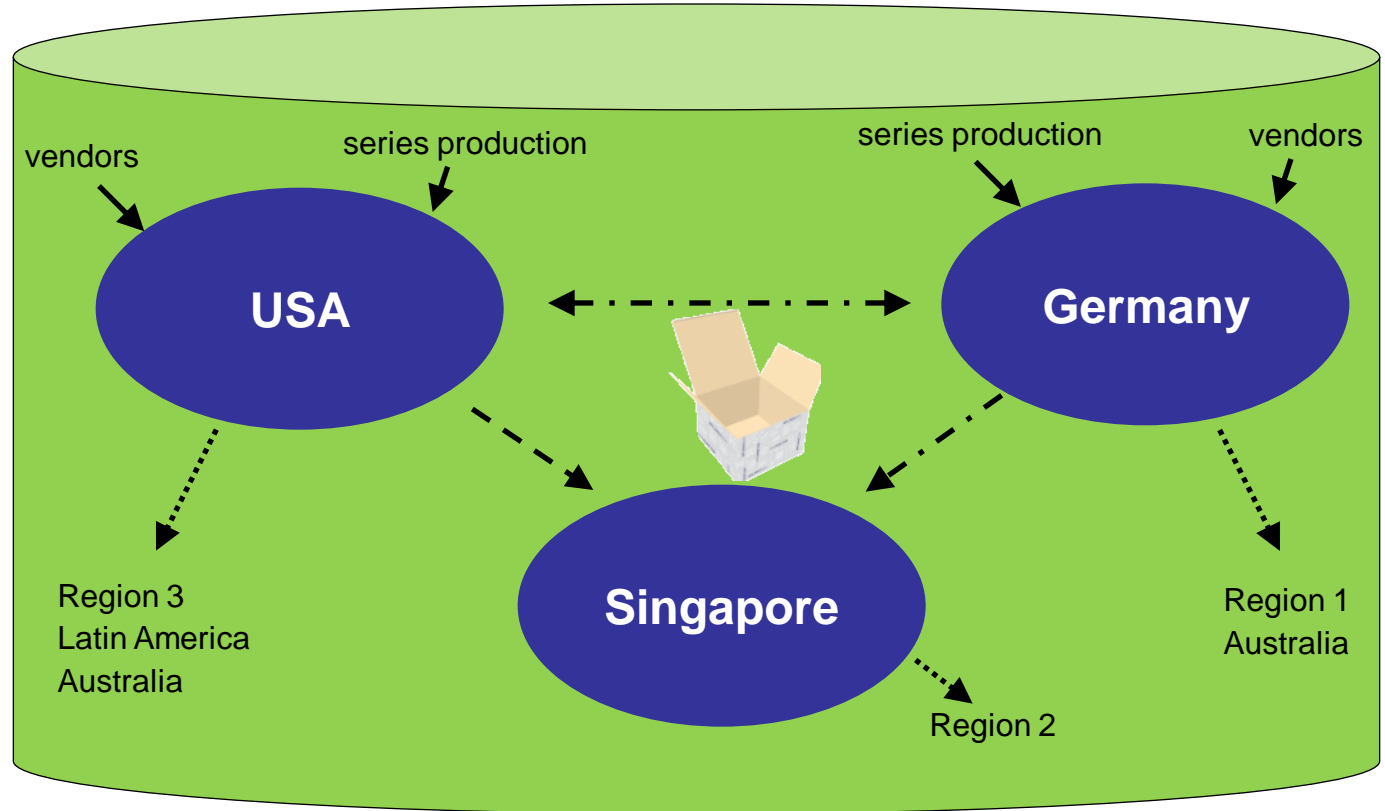
## Worldwide Inventory Management

**3 Regions**  
**3 Warehouses**



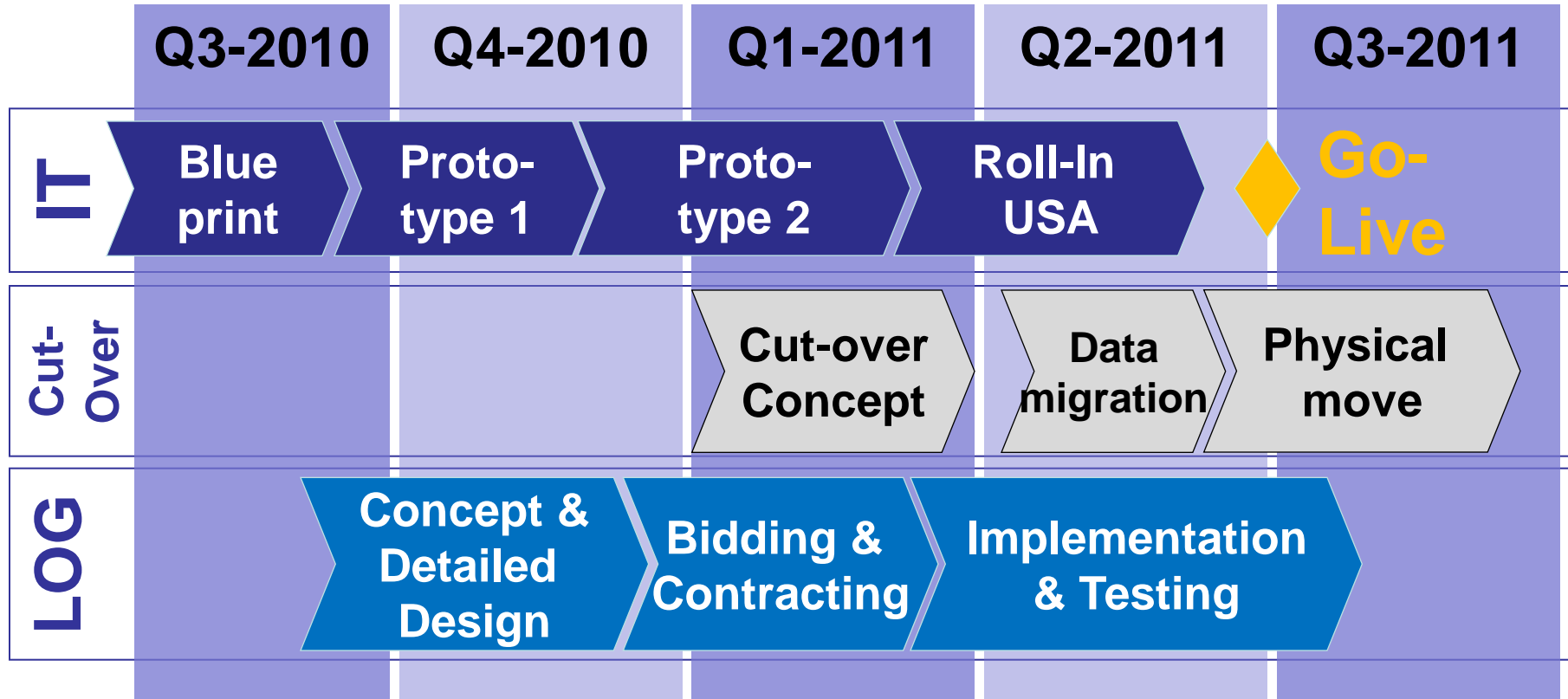
**1 globally**  
**harmonized**  
**planning and**  
**execution**  
**system**

### Global After Sales Solution



# Case Study

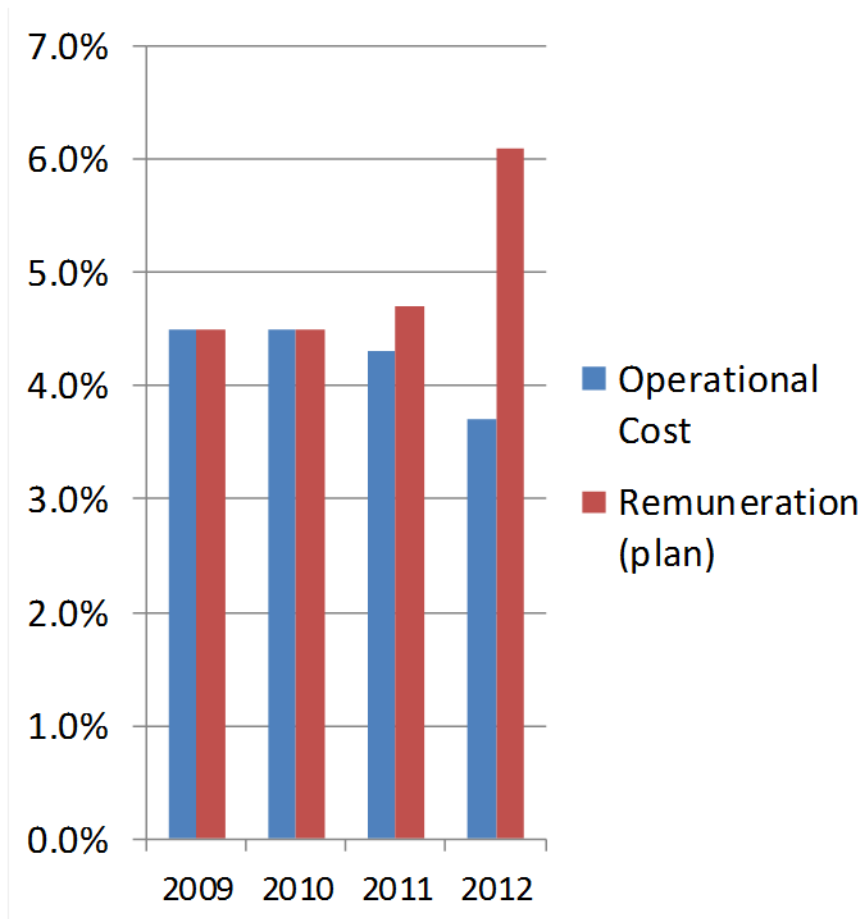
## Milestone Plan Integration



→ First part shipped, less than 13 Months after project kick-off

# Case Study

## Overall Logistics Cost



- Planned increase in remuneration shown as benchmark (red)
- Overall reduction of operational cost in first year of operation of approx. 9% against planned remuneration.
- Approx. 38% savings expected for 2012 against planned remuneration.

# Case Study

## Review of Goals

- ✓ **Standardized Processes**
  - Globally harmonized process template with
  - Individual localization for each region
- ✓ **One global IT system (EWM)**
  - Global stock visibility
- ✓ **Standardized operations and systems**
  - Pre-selection of systems for given application on global basis
  - Application to local requirements
- ✓ **Reduction in overall logistics cost (as % of sales)**

# Summary and Lessons Learned

- Spare parts profitability is significantly affected by logistics costs
- Cultural differences pose challenge to worldwide projects
- Introduction of automation requires time to embrace all benefits
- Consistent worldwide processes facilitate cost effective operations and inventory management
- Standardized operations facilitate benchmarking

# For More Information:

Speaker: Rupert Hoecherl

E-Mail: [r.hoecherl@io-consultants.com](mailto:r.hoecherl@io-consultants.com)

Speaker: Marco Lederle

E-Mail: [m.lederle@io-consultants.com](mailto:m.lederle@io-consultants.com)

[www.io-consultants.com](http://www.io-consultants.com)

Visit us at ProMat 2013 Booth # 4170