Automating Existing Warehouses – A better value for solving the storage squeeze

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Presented by:

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AS/RS History

- Have been around since the 1960's
- Modern warehousing systems are required to process increasingly complex tasks and provide reliability and flexibility for future needs
- Play an increasing role in staging and routing of raw materials and work-in-process





Stereotypes and Misconceptions	Reality
"only for managing large inventories"	- Products can be stored in locations/lanes with pallets placed, single, double or up to 12 pallets deep
"won't fit in my existing warehouse"	 AS/RS can be installed in existing facilities or designed into a new facility Most systems can go up to 130' high or as low as 20' high
"software integration fears"	 Warehouse Management software are modular systems Interfaces to various ERP systems, web interfaces and PLC systems
"costs too much"	 AS/RS provides considerable costs savings over their 20-25 year lifespan with paybacks in 3-5 years
"reliability fears"	- A well maintained AS/RS is typically more reliable than a manual work-force





THREE GROWTH SCENARIOS TYPICALLY ENCOUNTERED

- The site is completely land-locked, with no building expansion possible. Optimizing existing space is the only option for remaining on site. This is an operating cost avoidance strategy, as building in another location has long-term negative cost consequences.
- The site has some room to expand, but rather than build a structure, there is a better value in automating the existing space. This is a cost avoidance strategy.
- 3. The site will be expanded, but the new building has less square footage due to automation. This is an enabling future growth strategy.





Reality

- AS/RS can do far more than just manage inventory
- Maximize available storage space
- Purchasing low-cost, low-quality warehouse automation machinery is often more expensive than staying with a manual system
 - Reduced labor and product damage costs
 - Reduction in energy costs up to 40% in refrigerated and frozen warehouses
 - Maintenance costs lower for AS/RS than using fork lift trucks



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Transforming the existing building asset – why?

Conventional Storage To Westfalia ASRS System





If you're going to do it, you need to do it right!

Simple steps:

- Buy only the highest quality equipment
- Think long-term
- Introduce operations personnel early
- Think proactively
- Don't buy from companies that cannot demonstrate technology to be purchased







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