



Case Study: Rhenus Logistics



3PL CASE STUDY

Overview & Challenge

Rhenus is one of the leading global partners for outsourcing warehousing solutions. Specialized in numerous industries, they optimize the value-added chain for their customers. With their dense network of locations and continuously new technologies, they offer their customers comprehensive services for warehouse logistics in the areas of Consumer Goods, Healthcare and Lifesciences, Fashion and Lifestyle, and Machinery and Industrial.

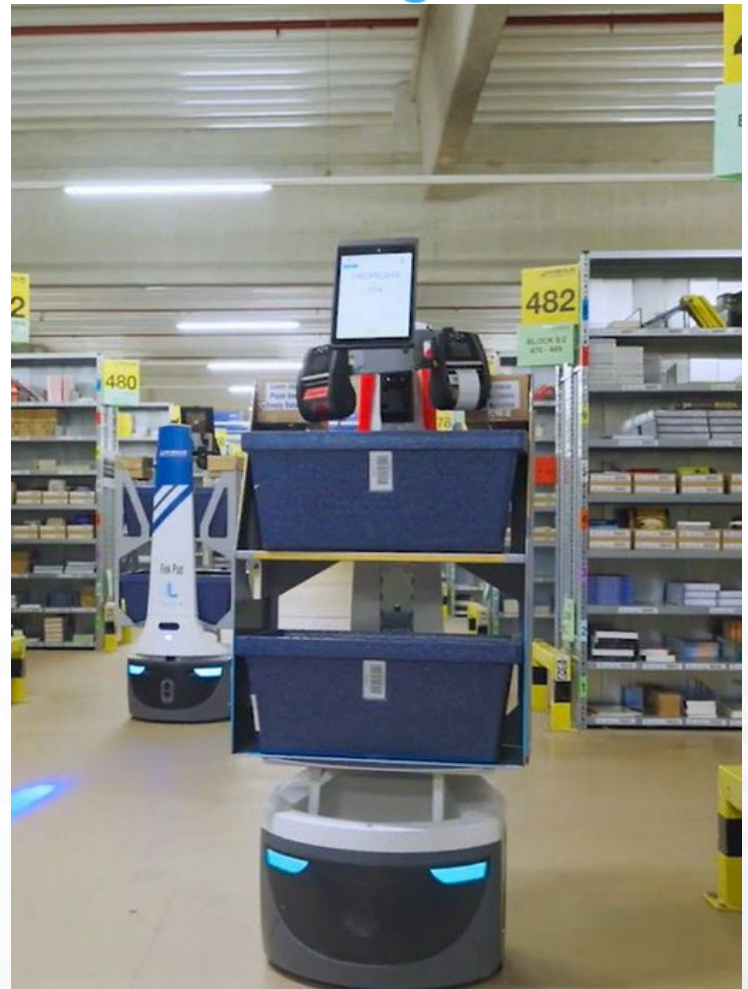
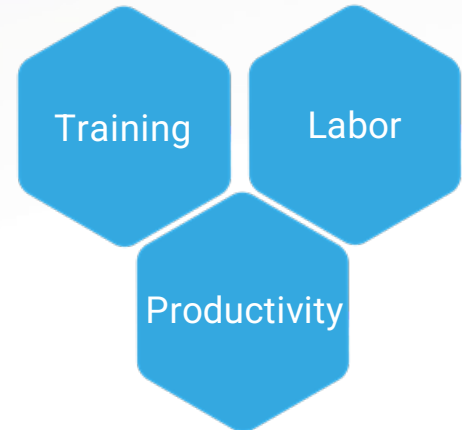
With more than 180 locations and four million square meters of storage space, Rhenus operates a broad network of existing large sites around the globe, including Europe. Rhenus has 30 sites in Germany alone and offers a closely knit network of multi-user facilities, dedicated solutions and in-house logistics in its home market.

Their Hørselgau facility is the central warehouse for the largest bookseller in the German-speaking countries and manages their B2B and B2C business. With their distinctly seasonal business, the Rhenus management found hiring new associates to be increasingly difficult. This labor challenge motivated them to look at the market for solutions.

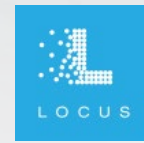
“In the end, we came across Locus Robotics, which was the best solution for us to implement here,” said Nico Laudage, Customer Business Manager.

Florian Schneider, Site Manager Hørselgau, stated, “What spoke for Locus was the easy and quick option to implement the solution in a conventional warehouse with a relatively short lead time without major modifications.”

Critical Factors for Implementing Automation at Rhenus



3PL improves productivity by 1.5x with LocusBots



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Results

Rhenus started using the Locus solution and 135 LocusBots on the 114,958 square foot mezzanine of their 168,300 square foot facility in September of 2022.

The associates were involved from the beginning and have stated that the training and picking processes are both simpler with the LocusBots as they previously had to pull heavy racks, which strained their bodies.

Before automating the facility, the training period for Rhenus' rack picking was between eight and 16 hours. With Locus, they have reduced that to two to four hours per worker.

Along with improved training time, Rhenus has also increased productivity by more than 50% with the Locus solution.

“We previously had an average productivity of around 80 lines per hour (LPH),” said Mike Dorn, Operations Manager. “Now, we have an average of 117 to 120 LPH with even 147 LPH at peak times, which is a very good improvement.”

During the peak season, with the Robots-as-a-Service (RaaS) model offered by Locus Robotics, Rhenus expanded by scaling up from 135 bots to 162 to have a successful Christmas business.

“The 27 peak bots stay with us until December 22 and then the LocusBots can also go on Christmas vacation,” said Laudage.

The partnership between Rhenus and Locus has been a success, says Schneider. “We have developed in the right direction and the solution is enjoyable. We are thinking about what a solution for our level zero could look like with Locus.”

Results



Lines per Hour



Decrease in Training Time



Increased Employee Retention

