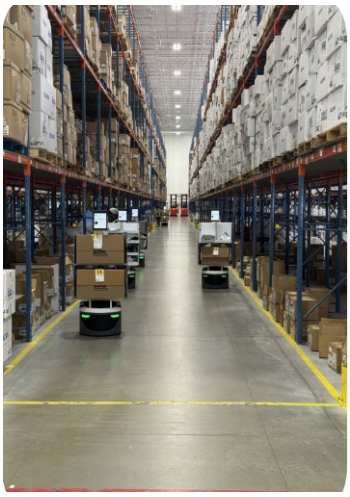
Case Study: S&S Activewear



RETAIL CASE STUDY

Problem

S&S Activewear's Vaughn, Ontario distribution center was under growing pressure to keep pace with demand. Following its acquisition of alphabroder, which had successfully deployed Locus Robotics in its own facilities, S&S saw an opportunity to bring the same solution to their Canadian operation.

Previously reliant on manual batch picking using pack mules and stock chasers, the team struggled with travel time, inefficiency, and rising training demands. With customer expectations for same-day shipping, the old model wasn't sustainable.

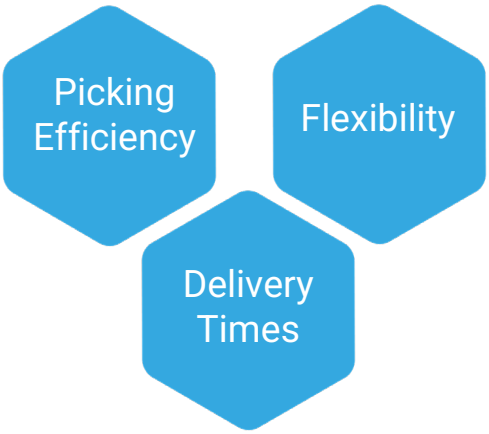
Solution

S&S deployed Locus autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) at their Vaughan facility in just 49 days, setting an international record for speed to deployment.

Without changing the warehouse layout, the team moved seamlessly to zone-based picking, implemented Fast Pick strategies for high-velocity SKUs, and dramatically reduced physical strain on employees.

"*Our throughput improved by 25% and shift times came down, giving employees a better home life balance.*"— James Hillier, Regional Director of Operations, S&S Canada

Key Reasons for Warehouse Automation at S&S Activewear



Results

- Improved LPH from 40 to 75
- Training time was cut in half
- Decreased ergonomic incident reports

Retailer Boosts Throughput with Locus Robots

RETAIL CASE STUDY

Deployment Highlights

- **49-day rollout from approval to go-live:** A Locus record.
- **No disruption** to picking during implementation.
- **Zero layout changes** needed to deploy robots in existing facility.

Results that Matter

Productivity

- Increased from 48 to **70–75 lines per hour (LPH),** the highest in the S&S network
- Shipped **23,000 lines** in a single day
- Surpassed throughput targets within two weeks of go-live

Labor & Training

- Training time cut in half
- Peak week throughput of 100,000+ lines completed in 8–9 hour shifts vs. 12–14 previously
- Multilingual tablet support (English, Spanish, Mandarin, Hindi)

Employee Impact

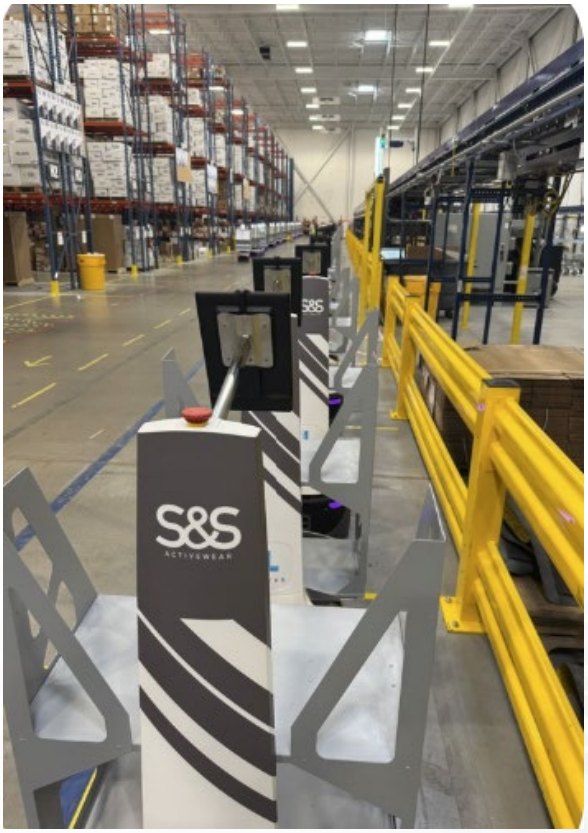
- Less warehouse travel and reduced strain
- Fewer ergonomic incident reports year over year

"Working with the robots is less strenuous… ergonomically, it's a lot better for our associates."— Benjamin DePrisco, Safety Specialist, S&S Activewear

What's Next?

With 130 bots active and plans to scale to 150 for peak, S&S is deepening its investment in automation across North America.

Quote of Note

"From training to data visibility, this is one of the most seamless integrations we've ever done."

- Cole Lohman, Director of Automation, S&S Activewear