



Tutto Piccolo

Alcoy, Nr Alicante, Spain

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RAPID RESPONSE

With time ever more crucial the warehouse was installed in 10 days, and fully operation within a month.

ENHANCED OPERATION

The solution has increased operational efficiency, performance, visibility and control with a system capable of handling 100,000 units a day.

CONSULTANCY APPROACH

SDI's unique consultancy approach has resulted in a solution that is future-proof, being able to meet the future outputs needed, and other precise needs of the customer.



THE CHALLENGE

Tutto Piccolo, a privately-owned that manufactures most of its garments in the area around Alcoy, has more than 3,000 customers, the vast majority of whom are small independent traders. Serving such a customer base inevitably involves handling a large number of orders, varying in size.

Although Tutto Piccolo already have an automated sortation system for hanging garments, they didn't have anything for the assembly of boxed items, which was still undertaken manually, with pickers able to handle only one customers order at a time.

THE SOLUTION

The SDI solution was to supply a second-hand sortation system, previously used for a garment distribution centre in France, which had recently upgraded its operations. The sorter was shipped in component form to Spain and re-engineered to meet Tutto Piccolo's precise requirements, including installation of bespoke software. It took SDI engineers just ten days to install the sorter at the Alcoy distribution centre and within a month the system was fully operational.

With SDI's system Tutto Piccolo can now sort up to 50 orders simultaneously. The company needed this extra capacity, improved flexibility and greater speed of order fulfilment, to keep pace with continuing growth in business and an expansion of its

core ranges of childrens' clothes and accessories. Whilst a move to automation was the obvious answer, the capital expenditure budget was limited, so the use of refurbished technology ensured the materials handling solution remained cost-effective.

THE SYSTEM

The SDI system comprises of a 25m-long oblong rotating carousel equipped with steel trays. Arranged around the carousel are 50-drop zones, which are allocated, as required to individual customers.

Items are picked into boxes, from garments hanging on rails – in some instances using the hanging garment sorter – or from ready-packed consignments. These boxes are then transferred to the sorter and loaded onto any of three induct stations, where the bar codes on the boxes are read by an automatic in-line scanner.

Communicating with SDI's Warehouse Sortation System (WSS) the cartons are then loaded one by one into individual trays.

As the goods pass round the system the WWS send signals to the sorter's PLC to activate solenoids that tilt the trays as they pass over the required drop-stations, which are allocated in each sorting wave to specific customers. The accumulated boxes are then transferred by conveyor from the sorter to the dispatch area for onward delivery.

Tutto Piccolo is currently sorting 40,000 items per day on the SDI system. At peak periods, during major promotions for example, the company expects the system to be handling up to 100,000 units per day.

“With our old manual system we could only pick goods for one customer at a time, but the SDI machine can now sort for 50 customers in one pass. This has greatly speeded up the order assembly operation, and has given us much improved flexibility. We can deliver to customers as and when they demand, and most orders are delivered within less than 48 hours.”

*Rafael Mataix Molto -
Director and co-founder of Tutto Piccolo*

“When looking for a sortation system we conducted a survey of the industry in Europe, and found that SDI had all the experience and expertise we required. Although our budget was limited, this wasn't a problem for SDI, the refurbished sortation system was the perfect solution.”

*Rafael Mataix Molto -
Director and co-founder of Tutto Piccolo*

ABOUT SDI GROUP

SDI group is an innovative provider of systems and solutions to the retail, wholesale, fulfilment and e-commerce industries for all aspects of distribution centre materials handling.

As both consultants and system integrators, the company provides clients with a total logistics solution package, which includes materials handling consulting, as well as design, engineering, fabrication, installation and integration services.



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