



SPAR Österreichische Warenhandels-AG

Ebergassing, Austria

SPAR Österreichische Warenhandels AG is a 100 % family-owned company headquartered in Salzburg, Austria, whose core business is food retail. Since their founding, SPAR has recorded growth each year and has therefore been able to expand their network of stores internationally.

The company now boasts about 3,300 locations, 1,600 of which are in Austria. In Austria, SPAR is the market leader in food retail with a market share of 36 %.

In 2021, the company's total turnover was 17.37 billion euros, which was an increase of 4.7 % from the previous year.

What's more, SPAR invested more than 750 million euros in modernizing its locations and opening new stores.



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Sector	Food retail
Location	Ebergassing, Österreich
System size	41.600 m ² (450.000 ft ²)
Performance	600 large pack units/hour/work station
Technology	OSR Shuttle™ with 56,298 storage locations and 6 rack line systems for dry goods with 9,288 different products, OSR Shuttle™ with 60,112 storage locations and 8 rack line systems for fresh goods with 7,795 different products, 20 Open Shuttles in dry goods, 14 Open Shuttles for pallets in fresh goods, Pick-it-Easy Case work stations, Pick-it-Easy Move work stations, KiSoft Genomix, KiSoft WMS, KiSoft WCS, KiSoft RCS



Keeping food on the shelves

Thousands of articles have to arrive at the supermarkets every day at the right time so that all items are in stock and available to consumers. This calls for a sophisticated and professional logistics solution that ensures all goods arrive at the right time, at the right place and in the right quantity.

The technologies in Ebergassing fulfill all the requirements for securing long-term supply to the surrounding SPAR stores and make the DC one of the most innovative and environmentally friendly logistics centers of its kind to boot.

„Our long-term partnership with KNAPP is characterized by appreciation, honesty and, above all, solution-orientation.“

Patrick Hörmann
Head of Warehousing and Goods Flow at SPAR Ebergassing



Speedy store-friendly delivery

Six times a week, the logistics center in Ebergassing makes deliveries to 202 stores in northern Burgenland, Vienna and Lower Austria. The stores supplied by the logistics center vary tremendously in their range of goods on offer. Ebergassing supplies SPAR supermarkets, deli-focused Gourmet stores, EUROSPAR supermarkets and INTERSPAR hypermarkets with a selection of up to 50,000 food and non-food articles. Orders are ready for the stores within just a few hours, with each supermarket placing their own orders.

In working with KNAPP, SPAR wanted the distribution center in Ebergassing to be able to react flexibly to the demands of food retail. In SPAR's case, semi-automation provides the same performance as comparable fully automatic solutions, but with a much lower investment volume.

The semi-automatic solution at a glance

Innovative technologies allow SPAR to respond flexibly to the peaks in food retail without having to design the entire warehouse around them. The semi-automatic warehouse provides the same performance as a fully-automatic solution, but with a much lower investment volume.

With a system that can beautifully adapt to fluctuating order volumes, SPAR achieves the greatest degree of flexibility and system reliability at its distribution center in Ebergassing. The complete solution saves costs, space and resources.

Open Shuttles – always flexible

Trucks deliver the goods on pallets to the warehouse. After all the data is recorded in the system, the pallets are placed on a conveyor system. From here they are picked up by the Open Shuttles, which move about freely, without any physical or optical aids. Compared to a static conveyor system, they save cost and valuable space. Smart route planning and assignment of transport jobs frees up employees to focus on tasks that create value.

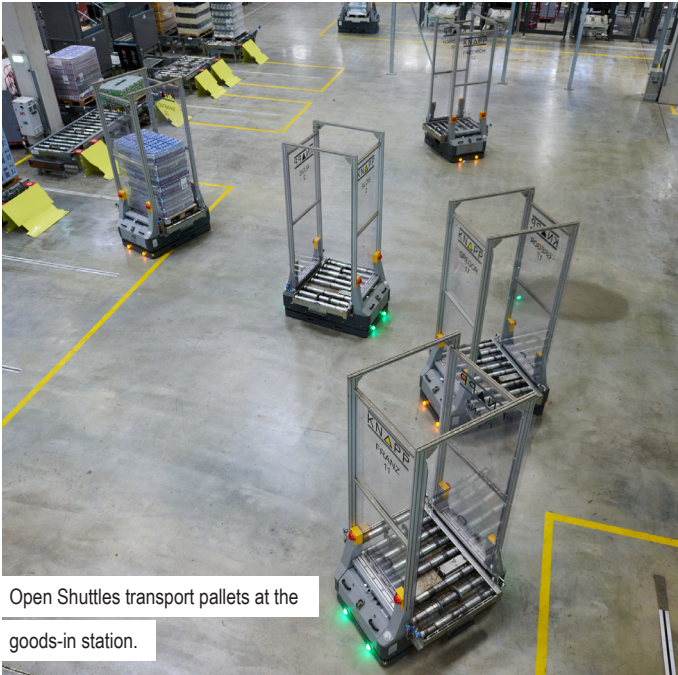
Most of the items that have to be depalletized can be handled efficiently and fully automatically by space-effective robots. The high-performance robots unstack the pallets layer by layer, after which the articles are loaded onto trays. Articles that cannot be depalletized automatically are manually separated and loaded onto trays for storage in the OSR Shuttle™.

Pick-it-Easy – work smart, not hard

Pick-it-Easy work stations, where picking follows the goods-to-person principle, provide that extra flexibility in picking. They come with a slew of terrific benefits, such as ergonomic workflows involving pushing rather than lifting. Employees work intuitively at the stations, with new employees mastering the work in next to no time.

Fast movers are picked directly from the goods-in pallet to the roll container right at the Pick-it-Easy Move work stations. In contrast, medium and slow movers are buffered on trays in the OSR Shuttle™ before they are assembled as orders in roll containers at the ergonomic Pick-it-Easy Case work stations.

Once completed, the roll containers are transported from the work stations to the shipping area, where they are collected in optimal sequence with the prepared pallets in their respective shipping lines. Finally, the trucks are loaded for delivery to the stores.



Open Shuttles transport pallets at the goods-in station.



A majority of items are automatically depalletized by high-performance robots.



Using Pick-it-Easy work stations makes the picking process more flexible.



„What makes our system special is reverse picking. Eliminating transport and walking time increases productivity. Our main goal was to make our employees' work less strenuous. The ergonomic work stations and processes made that happen.“

Patrick Hörmann, Head of Warehousing and Goods Flow at SPAR Ebergassing

More than just storage – the OSR Shuttle™

The heart of the warehouse – the OSR Shuttle™ – provides space-saving and efficient storage for items. Here, articles are stored temporarily until it's time to ship them. About 56,300 storage locations in six rack line systems are dedicated to storing dry goods, while roughly 60,100 storage locations in eight rack line systems are dedicated to fresh goods. Once the order data is available, KiSoft triggers the retrieval of the required articles from the shuttle system. The trays enter the station at the optimal height and within perfect reach, while the packing pattern software ensures optimal stability and packing density. The technology makes it possible for employees to work ergonomically and leads to increased productivity and employee satisfaction.



KiSoft Genomix – efficient automation thanks to perfectly maintained master data

High-quality article master data is the key for successful automation solutions. To help shape the future of logistics, SPAR began testing the software at an early stage of development. KiSoft Genomix records and digitizes all the required automation parameters of all items and load carriers during the goods-in procedure. The software adapts to the degree of automation in the warehouse and knows exactly which parameters the technologies need in order to work optimally. It optimizes the entire process chain, improving efficiency and performance.



Reading tip
*KiSoft Genomix
in action at SPAR*



Reusables Management Solutions - empties management adds value

Our system solution for empties management – Reusables Management Solutions (RMS) – prepares roll containers and returnable produce and beverage crates for further use. The semi-automatic empties sorting solution can process up to 156 different types of load carriers efficiently while saving resources. KiSoft RCS manages the data and the configuration of the sorting process. Up to 1,200 empties load carriers per hour can be sorted and, as needed, returned to circulation.

Reading tip
*Pioneering Empties
Management*





For more information,
watch this video:



Manual tasks are kept at a minimum



**Ergonomic picking using pushing
instead of lifting**



**Open Shuttles save time and reduce
costs**



Robots depalletize efficiently



Custom degree of automation



**Ability to flexibly react to peaks in food
retail**



**Intuitive user interface means new
employees learn quickly**



Rapid shipping of goods