Since the end of 2016, the largest Swiss milk processor, Emmi, has been utilizing a uniform system landscape for cross-site warehouse and network control (photo: Emmi)

Supply Chain Management at its best

Emmi and inconso establish cross-site warehouse and network control at 22 locations

Since the end of 2016, the largest Swiss milk processor, Emmi, utilizes a uniform system landscape for cross-site warehouse and network control. Its core is the supply chain execution system inconsoSCE to control the national logistics network, for which a standardized empty goods management has also been created. Nearly all sites from which goods are shipped have also been equipped with the warehouse management system inconsoWMS X, while inconsoLSA is used to quantitatively record and evaluate logistics services to invoice them for internal or external customers.

As an international company headquartered in Luzern, Switzerland, Emmi exports a full range of cheeses, dairy and fresh products to around 60 countries worldwide. The logistics processes in operative outbound business have proven to be highly problematic for the company. For this reason, Emmi tasked the software specialist inconso with implementing a standardized

The warehouse management system inconsoWMS X first went live in 2014 at the site Ostermundigen near Bern (photo: Emmi)

software landscape, which it realized in multiple steps at 22 sites from 2014 to 2016.

Comprehensive system optimization

Gradually, a logistics control instrument that displays all goods movements was implemented, i.e. inconsoSCE. Beginning with the connection of the software solution to the existing ERP system, the coupling to the comprehensive, new SAP ERP level took place in several project stages. During these stages, the supply chain execution solution inconsoSCE was placed between the ERP systems and the warehouse levels, which gives Emmi complete transparency over all elements and services of the logistics chain. In doing so, inconsoSCE fulfills precisely those requirements that, in combination with inconsoWMS X, enable smooth planning and control of goods flows at over 20 sites, thanks to its broad functional spectrum.

Warehouse with different versions

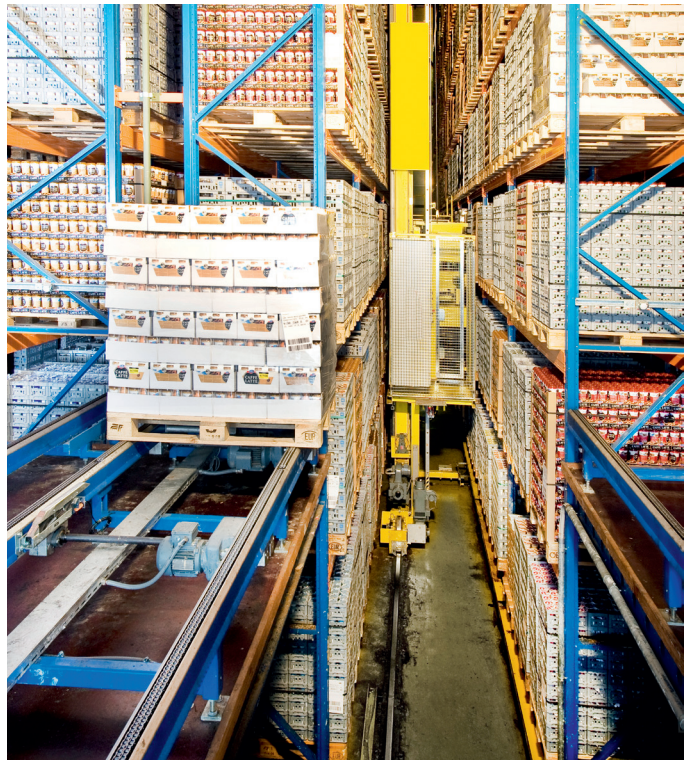
The different picking and outbound delivery warehouses of the Emmi Group in Switzerland were also connected step-by-step. The warehouse management system inconsoWMS X first went live in 2014 at the site Ostermundigen near Bern. The largest Swiss Emmi site mainly produces fresh products and transfers approximately 350,000 pallets with cooled and 65,000 pallets with uncooled goods as well as 30,000 pallets with retail goods. The appropriate technology for this encompasses a refrigerated high bay warehouse with adjacent areas, a new material flow system for the newly created pallet technology including an electronic monorail conveyor system, automated storage and retrieval systems in the high bay warehouse and various radio frequency connections. inconsoWMS X achieves the gapless connection of all goods movements in this area.

Later in the project, a consistent template approach was used. inconso was able to use the process structure Ostermundigen at the individual sites after a few modifications with regard to their different complexities and characteristics. The employees of Emmi logistics now have uniform system interfaces for their daily work. In addition, distribution logistics benefits from informational and comparable logistic parameters and harmonized processes that assure transparent and efficient warehouse operations. This is also the basis for the fast and flexible integration of future sites.

Migrational path of the ERP replacement

Since the migration from an ERP system to a different one is not always without complications, changes to the ERP level were mostly uncoupled from all executional systems, which were thus established independently of the ERP world. inconso installed the supply chain execution system in the form of an intermediately stored process level via which standardized interfaces between inconsoWMS X and inconsoSCE were created. New processes, such as cross-docking, flow through and single procurement, could be tested early and the software used before the actual ERP migration took place.

Due to the potential risks, the modifications in the warehouse management systems and the supply chain execution system were tested and set up prior to the migration of the production plants to SAP. In this prioritized step, the interface for SAP was implemented. inconsoLSA (Logistics Service Accounting System), which now creates automated invoices for third-party handling and storage services, was seamlessly integrated into the process levels.



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