

# textile network

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[1] After only twenty months of construction, Gerry Weber's new logistics center in Halle went live

[2] The warehouse management system inonsoWMS X takes full control of the warehouse's logistics IT – from goods receiving to store-in and picking through to goods issue and shipping



Photos: Dennis Neuschäfer/Rubis für Gerry Weber

Gerry Weber

## Centralized logistics processes

The fashion group Gerry Weber bundles all logistics processes in a new, fully automated logistics center in Ravenna Park in Halle/Westphalia. Equipped with cutting-edge storage and conveyor systems, the new building provides approximately 76,000 m<sup>2</sup> of usable space for the cross-docking of up to 37 million products per year. This software makes this logistics processing possible: The warehouse management system inonsoWMS X.

After only twenty months of construction, Gerry Weber's new logistics center in Halle went live and unites logistics for all textile goods under one roof for the first time. The fashion group thus also unites the distribution logistics of its five brand families Gerry Weber, Taifun, Sa-moon, Hallhuber and talkabout. All

in all, about 1,260 stores and sales spaces, about 2,450 shop spaces and 270 franchise stores are supplied this way.

The warehouse management system inonsoWMS X takes full control of the warehouse's logistics IT – from goods receiving to store-in and picking through to goods issue and

shipping. The fulfillment version of the system specially tailored to the requirements in Halle controls all planning, management and monitoring of goods flows. Between 100,000 to 600,000 pieces of clothing are cross-docked daily – and up to 37 million pieces per year. This affects the nearly 3.5 million

goods that are stored and retained in the new shuttle warehouse alone. Gerry Weber is gradually taking over the logistics processes that were formerly carried out at several sites by logistics service providers. Fully automated processes and software adapted to them make this possible.

### Tracking & Tracing with RFID

Gerry Weber's regular installation of innovative technologies also contributes to this. Already in 2009, the fashion company decided to use RFID (radio frequency identification) tags that enable the gapless tracking of goods movements. At the production plant, jackets, blouses or pants are tagged with chips to ensure high transparency when the garments, some of which are of high value, are tracked during goods receiving. Thus, Gerry Weber has an overview of the movements of every article in real time – whether on the approximately eleven kilometer long hanging goods conveyor line, in the 30 m high, 16 aisle hanging goods high bay warehouse or in the eleven aisle shuttle warehouse for flat packed goods. Using the RFID technology that is fully integrated in inconsoWMS X, every item in every processing step can be assigned to its respective production order. The interaction of the systems is a highlight because the identification of individual goods among millions of other items poses a challenge for conventional entry systems. In addition, the high number of goods that accumulate in the warehouse areas create high requirements for the system performance. inconsoWMS X was expanded with a special software module that records and processes information based on plausibility and the use of SGTINs (serial global trade item numbers), thereby securing goods-specific stock management among millions of articles.

### "Hanging" Shipments

Furthermore, the warehouse management system bundles a number of other processes that range from multistage picking, a customized replenishment control through to automated completeness checks for packages in the goods receiving and goods issue processes. This also includes the differentiated goods management for hanging and flat packed goods which, based on the order, must be processed for joint shipping. Hanging goods, examples of hanging shipments, are transported fully automatically to their respective stations via hanging goods technology. If the order also includes goods that are stored as flat packed goods, bag loading is utilized: Flatly stored goods are brought to packing stations that can only be operated by hanging conveyor technology and at which packages are created for flat shipping. In addition, flat packed goods can be changed into hanging goods through ironing, so that the ordered clothes can be

shipped at the same time and partial deliveries are avoided.

Parallel to this, in the background, the system also monitors all orders with special requirements. This includes the processing of product-related and customer-specific value-added services, e.g. for attaching individual safety and special labels, special hangers or sewing, which are also taken into account when controlled by inconsoWMS X. The system even keeps track of a package's latest possible shipping date, so that it still reaches the customer on time.

Gerry Weber invested about 90 million euros into the new logistics center with the adjoining outlet store, 60 percent of which were spent on the technology and IT. The use of inconsoWMS X proves useful in two ways: along with the optimized control of all goods flows that the system currently ensures, it can also keep pace with expected capacity increases in the future.

[[www.inconso.com](http://www.inconso.com)]  
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Gerry Weber Relies on Centralized Logistics Processes with inconsoWMS X

