

LOCUS WMS

Warehouse Management

*Control over your
warehouse*



Centric is the supplier of Locus WMS, a controlling standard-solution warehouse management system that creates efficiency in your warehouse by providing simplicity on the shop floor. The system offers extensive applications for all logistics processes in the warehouse.

Locus WMS includes features like real-time KPI overviews, dashboard functionality including a 3D graphical representation of the warehouse, value added logistics (VAL), advanced shipping, integration with transport management, a fully integrated voice application, and seamless integral control of the warehouse mechanisation.

Locus WMS is an application that controls the warehouse by assigning the right task to the right person at the right time. When an employee has completed a task and is ready for the next, Locus WMS determines the most important task for that employee at that time, taking into account the type of tasks that person is allowed to perform, which vehicle is currently in use, and where the employee is at that moment. Locus WMS is designed for medium-sized to large businesses with complex warehouses in retail, wholesale, eCommerce, 3PL and manufacturing.



Why opt for Locus WMS?

Locus WMS controls warehouse processes with efficiency, accuracy and flexibility. It allocates the right logistics task to the right employee at the right time using business rules based on your requirements. This allows your warehouse to achieve the throughput of a well-oiled machine and makes setting the wrong priorities a thing of the past.

Logistics are in a constant state of flux, both physically and in terms of process improvement. That's why Locus WMS makes it easy for you to implement process improvements and the associated changes to the Locus WMS workflow yourself. To facilitate this, the workflows are based on configurable rules. We will train your employees to be able to apply the business rules associated with physical process improvements to Locus WMS so that you can carry out maintenance and management of Locus WMS yourself.

Quick return on investment

Implementing Locus WMS has a positive return on investment (ROI) due to:

- ✓ significant improvement in general efficiency
- ✓ higher throughput in the warehouse
- ✓ higher stock reliability
- ✓ reduction in dock-to-stock time and timely, correct preparation of sales orders ready for transportation.



'With Locus WMS you can easily manage and maintain your own workflows'

A guru when it comes to warehouse logistics

Locus WMS supports all known methods and procedures in warehouse logistics. The most important methods and techniques for each process are described below.

Receipt scheduling and processing

In the planning phase, a number of relationships between purchase order (lines) and receipt (lines) are possible. Upon physical receipt, single item pallets and multiple item pallets are processed in several different ways. Locus WMS basically processes physical receipts using four methods. These methods can be set up to support many forms of physical receipt. If you work with EDI messages, you can receive and store containers bearing SSCC (Serial Shipping Container Code) labels immediately, or process them as cross-docking flows.



Put away

Put away is an important step in your warehouse process. Storing goods directly in the correct location both prevents unnecessary moves later in the process and saves costs. Locus WMS offers a wide range of features and methods for allocating the optimum location. The put-away rules are based on three main factors (various settings and methods are possible for each factor).

1. Item and stock level

Locus WMS checks at item level whether certain goods may or may not be stored next to each other. At stock level, Locus WMS checks the weight, volume, stock status, ABC classification and whether the container is full.

2. Source location

Locus WMS considers both the container's source location (e.g. pallet, trolley, box, crate) and the process in which the item is used. Put away rules can be used during every warehouse process, such as for putting away pallets from shipments at the dock.

3. Requirements of the target location

Locus WMS considers the conditions of the target location. These include whether or not to replenish a location and the selection of a close-to-pick location with a maximum number of containers in the immediate vicinity. The system factors in the maximum number of containers and fill rate, ABC classifications and various other stock characteristics.

Thanks to these three factors, Locus WMS allows you to put batches of goods right next to each other to ensure efficient processing. Alternatively, you can distribute the batch across the warehouse in order to limit the density of dangerous materials or to optimise the use of narrow-aisle trucks, for instance. Locus WMS always finds the best location for your goods. Further examples of smart warehouse layout are:

- ✓ Block pallets and Euro pallets are not next to each other on the same shelf (on request).
- ✓ Heavy pallets are not placed high on the shelf.
- ✓ Pick locations can be replenished on receipt, where permitted in terms of best-before date, batch and other characteristics.

Thanks to these settings and methods, Locus WMS allows an almost infinite number of possible put-away rules.

This feature is used upon receipt and at various other times such as when determining the optimum dock after an order is picked or when reorganising the warehouse at the end of a season. An important feature is that you are able to maintain these rules so that you can adjust them in the case of changes to the range or layout of the warehouse.

Wave picking

Locus WMS uses the wave picking method in order to translate sales order lines into logistics orders. Sales order lines can result in different logistics tasks, such as moving a full pallet to the dock, picking a full box, replenishing the pick location with separate items and picking a single item. These goods must be brought to the dispatch area or a specific dock at roughly the same time. Locus WMS offers several filters

for selecting the correct orders from sales orders or lines, such as by customer, customer area, contractor, journey, single line item orders and fully deliverable orders. You can also make selections which affect the logistics

process, for example picking full containers only, commencing picking in a specific area or beginning logistics tasks for a certain dispatch date. The order picking method, such as zone picking, basic order picking, batch picking or pick and pass, is specified in Locus WMS' configuration.

Replenishing pick locations

As Locus WMS is a real-time application, replenishment of pick locations is fully integrated into the other processes. There are several replenishment methods, such as replenishing the entire pallet and replenishing on an item-by-item basis. This replenishment process can begin at different times, such as at high-water or low-water marks.

E-fulfilment packing process

The packing process is an important process for e-fulfilment centres. It is an opportunity to check whether the order is complete and correct. Locus WMS supports the packing process in several ways.

JIT

Locus WMS uses JIT in e-fulfilment for handling long tail products. At the last minute, goods from other suppliers can be added to the rest of the dispatch. Such products could be, for example, freshly baked croissants that are added to food or non-food orders placed by multiple online customers.

Cross-docking

Cross-docking is aimed at goods that are dispatched immediately or shortly after receipt. Locus WMS supports several kinds of cross-docking in retail, wholesale and eCommerce:

- ✓ customer-specific delivery for shipment and controlled forwarding
- ✓ customer-specific delivery for shipment without content inspection
- ✓ item-specific delivery for shipment followed by overpicking goods (pick-to-zero)
- ✓ item-specific delivery for shipment followed by distribution of goods between the dispatches that are ready (JIT).

Value Added Logistics

Value Added Logistics (VAL) is important for a warehouse as it is part of a logistics service provider's or other type of company's reason to exist. Examples include an e-fulfilment centre wrapping presents in festive packaging, a wholesaler making an item ready for use, and sticking a price label on a discounted item for a retailer. Locus WMS supports VAL in several ways:

- ✓ VAL as part of a process, such as putting two components together during order picking or wrapping a pallet in film
- ✓ VAL as a separate process in which goods are sent to a specific workstation or area; as soon as a pallet is ready, a task is created to move the pallet to the correct location or dock.



'It integrates into your IT landscape and so keeps the information up to date in all places'

Omnichannel retailing

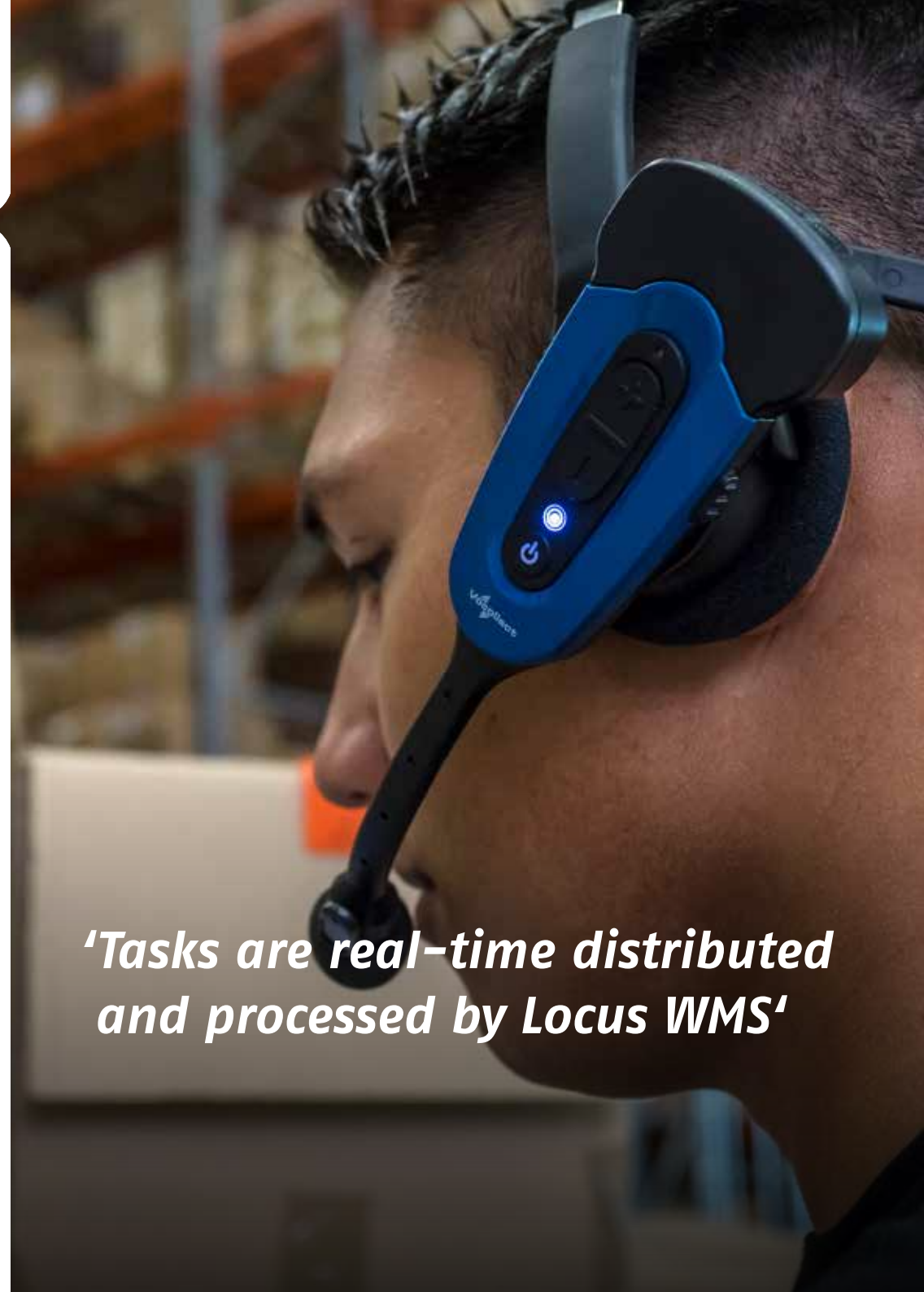
Omnichannel retailing aligns all order and distribution channels. The correct stock information is essential to this. Locus WMS' task management prevents errors in your warehouse and ensures accurate stock information. It integrates into your IT landscape and so keeps the information up to date in all places.

Omnichannel retailing increases the number of orders but decreases the average number of products per order, which has an impact on your warehouse processes. An omnichannel warehouse generally has a wide range of products with various different characteristics. There are usually more products but lower stock levels, there is a very variable demand for certain products, and there are different cross-docking flows and pick and shipment methods.

Processes in omnichannel warehouses depend on both other internal processes and processes outside of the warehouse. Individual processes must be well aligned with each other in order to prevent waiting times and unnecessary operations in your warehouse. An essential process is the picking process, which often brings the greatest costs in a warehouse. Fluctuating demand affects the picking process, making optimum control essential. Locus WMS switches between different picking methods in order to ensure the desired throughput and efficiency during busy periods, for example. Locus WMS also uses its own algorithms to calculate optimum batch sizes and walking routes in your warehouse. This allows you to deploy your resources as effectively as possible

in order to achieve the greatest efficiency. Locus WMS is deployed in various eCommerce sectors, most commonly:

- ✓ non-food
- ✓ food
- ✓ fashion.



'Tasks are real-time distributed and processed by Locus WMS'

Lean warehousing

Lean warehousing is the method which, from a customer perspective, is all about adding value to the chain and avoiding waste. Locus WMS contributes to this by aligning individual processes within your warehouse and preventing waiting times and unnecessary operations. The system only allocates a task when it can actually be executed and when the result, such as a picked pallet, can be delivered to the designated place in your warehouse. Locus WMS also only allocates replenishment tasks when there is actual demand for more stock at the pick location.

Mechanisation in your warehouse

As a general rule, mechanisation in the warehouse aims for higher throughput and quality at lower prices. This applies to both fully mechanised warehouses and warehouses in which material handling equipment (MHE) is used for some processes. However, these benefits can only be achieved if the mechanisation is controlled in a way that is aligned with the other warehouse processes.

Locus WMS excels in integrating mechanical and other processes, as it originally started out as an MHE control system. When Locus WMS was later deployed in manned warehouses, there turned out to be huge similarities in terms of management. For example, if the mechanisation were to receive a task to move a pallet from A to B, the task would actually be very similar to a warehouse employee receiving a task to physically collect a pallet from location A and take it to location B. Locus Material Handling Control (LHMC) is used to integrate Locus WMS and the mechanisation's management software. This provides you with information about the status and progress of tasks that Locus WMS allocates to the mechanisation.

Voice

Locus WMS has fully integrated voice recognition, eliminating the need for a middleware interface. Locus WMS assigns and processes tasks in real time and the system can immediately adjust to the current status within the warehouse. This ensures more efficient deployment of your employees, higher productivity and greater accuracy. Locus WMS' voice recognition is compatible with all leading mobile devices. You can enable and disable the voice recognition feature yourself.



What Locus WMS has to offer

Locus WMS creates efficiency in your warehouse by adding simplicity on the work floor. Simplicity due to the easy, straightforward nature of the tasks, and efficiency that comes from the right task being allocated to the right employee at the right time. As a result, Locus WMS speeds up your logistics warehousing processes and allows you to work more precisely. Tasks are no longer received and executed on an ad hoc basis.

Locus WMS offers a wide variety of extensive features:

- ✓ support in and control of warehouse processes for e-fulfilment and omnichannel
- ✓ support with multiple logistics flows within a zone or warehouse
- ✓ an advanced, configurable and user-friendly system
- ✓ a stable system that uses the latest technology
- ✓ a decision support system that allows employees to make decisions based on clear, correct information
- ✓ support for the 'management by exception' principle, whereby employees can use multiple dashboards and alerts to see which areas require attention
- ✓ compatibility with all working methods and procedures in the area of warehouse logistics
- ✓ extensive tracking & tracing in accordance with the requirements of the General Food Law (GFL).



'Centric is a good sparring partner, showing that they do not only do what we ask of them, but they also proactively consider our current and future needs.'

Bart Douwen, operations manager CASA

A selection of our customers

Is your warehouse reaching its maximum capacity and are you searching for a solution? The savings achieved by installing a WMS compared to the initial costs (savings-to-investment ratio) are generally considerable. Moreover, a WMS helps the entire company move forward, because you can easily meet all existing and new market requirements.

You can see here a selection of our customers who are managing their logistics processes in the warehouse via Locus WMS.

Retail



Wholesale



Production



Ready for the future

The market is in a continuous state of flux, and you and your warehouse have to keep up with the ongoing changes. Developments like omnichain and omnichannel demand flexible methods of receipt, storage and dispatch of goods. The right information at the right time in the right place is therefore crucial.

In order to respond to changing market conditions, you need to be able to interpret information from both customers and suppliers quickly and correctly. By the same token, you want to be a valuable player in the logistics chain and quickly provide customers and suppliers with up-to-date, accurate information. This helps you reinforce the supply chain philosophy, where the sharing of information is at the forefront and helps you get more from your warehouse operations. Your warehouse will become a supply chain warehouse.

About Centric

Centric offers a wide range of integrated IT solutions to serve the entire supply chain, from manufacturer to consumer. Our solutions help to increase transparency across the supply chain. We have years of experience supplying high-quality standard solutions for the supply chain, which you can use to effectively and efficiently manage logistics processes. We support retailers, wholesalers, logistics service providers and transport companies with high-quality solutions and services, like our warehouse and transport management software, for example, but also with complete POS solutions and an integration platform for supply chain collaboration.



Would you like to know more about Locus WMS or Centric?

If you want to find out more about Locus WMS or Centric, please call Scott Domhof on +31 6 10029503 or supplychain@centric.eu for a no-obligations appointment.