



CASE STUDY

LFS ORCHESTRATES LOGISTICS PROCESSES AT SCHLÜTER-SYSTEMS

Smooth, Fast, Scalable: Smart Logistics Across 35,000 m²

Schlüter-Systems KG is the global market leader in system solutions for tile and natural stone installation. From its headquarters in Iserlohn, Germany, the company supplies wholesalers, construction sites, and tile distributors worldwide. As Schlüter-Systems evolved from a small craft business into a global player, the demands on its logistics operations and warehouse management grew significantly. In response, Schlüter-Systems has steadily advanced the digitalization of its warehouses across the entire group and built a new central warehouse at its headquarters. Here, the LFS warehouse management system from EPG (Ehrhardt Partner Group) orchestrates all logistical processes seamlessly. The result: noticeably increased efficiency, maximum flexibility, and a significantly reduced error rate.

Schlüter-Systems offers a diverse product range — from various types of Schlüter profiles and electric

and hydronic underfloor heating systems to drainage solutions and more. With more than 12,000 products, the company has expanded into new markets while continually enhancing its logistics network. In the new Iserlohn warehouse, Schlüter-Systems stocks approximately 12,000 items across 35,000 square

FROM DRIVERLESS TRANSPORT SYSTEMS TO SUSPENDED MONORAILS

Fast shipping requires fast logistics — and a high-performance warehouse management system. As the old WMS and ERP systems could no longer meet the needs of the new facility, Schlüter-Systems decided to implement a new solution. After an extensive selection process, the company chose the LFS warehouse management system. “We have achieved a very high level of automation in our new central warehouse, with three automated high-bay



OBJECTIVE

- Digitalize the new central warehouse
- Efficiently integrate automation systems
- Optimize material flow and order picking



SOLUTION

- Implement LFS as the central WMS
- Real-time integration of all systems
- Additional modules for shipping and system control



RESULTS

- Increased efficiency and reduced error rates
- Fast, scalable processes
- A proven success model for international warehouse operations

storage systems, a driverless transport system and an autonomous suspended monorail,” says Florian Schmidt, Logistics Manager at Schlüter-Systems. “The challenge was to integrate all these different systems and ensure smooth coordination of material flow,” he adds.

With the implementation of LFS, Schlüter-Systems aimed to enhance picking and packing strategies, optimize material flows, and make logistics processes more efficient and transparent. Thanks to close collaboration between EPG’s supply chain experts and the Schlüter-Systems project team, LFS was successfully implemented within just a few months, with all automation solutions seamlessly integrated. “For the suspended monorail, which can transport a variety of items with a total weight of up to 1.3 tons, there had previously been no existing interface. We developed a custom integration from scratch to ensure smooth system operation,” explains Markus Pauly, Project Manager at EPG.

REAL-TIME COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LFS AND THE SMALL PARTS WAREHOUSE

LFS now provides greater transparency and precise monitoring of warehouse utilization by ensuring that all systems communicate with each other in real time. For example, connecting LFS to the automated small parts warehouse (AKL) enables Schlüter-Systems to maximize storage capacity, boost employee productivity, and reduce physical strain. Long walking distances are no longer necessary — goods are automatically brought to workers following a goods-to-person principle. Moreover, the new AKL workstations were designed with a strong focus on ergonomics to enhance employee comfort and efficiency.

EFFICIENT, ERGONOMIC, ERROR-FREE

The modular design of LFS helps Schlüter-Systems build sustainable automation solutions across various communication layers and maintain seamless interfaces with shipping carriers. “One of the biggest

challenges was coordinating the wide range of complex components in daily operations,” Schmidt says.

In addition to the driverless transport system (FTS), Schlüter-Systems also relies on the cloud-based International Shipping System (ISS), which impresses with user-friendly Track & Trace features, interfaces to more than 250 shipping providers, and fully automated printing of shipping labels.

GLOBAL LEARNINGS AS A BLUEPRINT

The smooth implementation of LFS was largely the result of an intensive testing phase and a strong, trusting partnership between the two project teams. “A key element of the project was the intensive testing phase, which we conducted at various performance levels,” says Schlüter-Systems Change Manager Andreas Jonietz. “First, we tested each automation solution individually and connected it to LFS. Then, we carried out integrated testing of all systems based on comprehensive real-world scenarios.”

Support also came from Schlüter-Systems’ U.S. locations in Reno and Dallas, where LFS had already been successfully implemented. “During the blueprint phase for Iserlohn, we were able to incorporate the valuable insights gained in the U.S.,” Jonietz explains. Following this phase, the various automated systems were connected parallel. The blueprint approach is now also serving as a model for connecting additional warehouses in the U.S. to LFS and further advancing automation.

ABOUT SCHLÜTER-SYSTEMS

Schlüter-Systems is a leading international manufacturer of innovative system solutions for the installation and protection of tile and natural stone coverings. Headquartered in Iserlohn, Germany, this family-owned company offers a broad range of products for waterproofing, drainage, uncoupling, surface construction, and more. With over 50 years of experience, Schlüter-Systems is synonymous with quality, innovation, and practical solutions for the construction industry.