

Top 5 mistakes made in AMR implementations

With any technology implementation, there is a list of things that will make or break a project. We have seen a few common mistakes that tend to hold back autonomous mobile robot (AMR) implementations, impact the return, or bring them to an abrupt end. Read on to find out the five most common mistakes that are made when evaluating AMR solutions, and what you can do to make sure you don't make them.

1. Not enough due diligence

Autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) are an exciting new technological option for many warehouses. Robots in the warehouse have been talked about for years, but until recently they haven't been viable for most operations. For early adopters, or people looking to keep their business at the cutting edge, it can be tempting to jump on the first robotics option that seems like a good fit. However, it's incredibly important to keep an open mind and evaluate the full breadth of AMR options to determine the best fit for your challenges. Not every AMR solution will be a good fit, and taking the time to evaluate all the different options will ensure a successful project.

2. Going at it alone

The amount of different offerings, workflows, and restrictions surrounding AMRs can be overwhelming to handle on your own. Even if you have a good grasp on the different options, managing relationships with different vendors and integrations can be a large undertaking. Finding a partner who understands not only the robotics options, but also the ins and outs of your operation, is the key to getting the most out of AMRs. This partner should also be able to help guide the implementation and integration, ensuring your mission-critical systems work in perfect harmony with your new technology.



3. Narrowing the scope too far

Oftentimes operations will begin evaluating new technology to solve a specific problem, like lagging efficiency in the pick process. While that may be a good place to start, narrowing the scope of an AMR project to only a single area can limit results and slow down the time to ROI. By keeping an open mind to *all* of the areas an AMR solution can help, rather than only evaluating the technology for only *one* issue, you are far more likely to find deeper levels of success in the implementation, and the overall strategy around AMRs.



4. Forced fitting the tech into human-designed processes

To get the most out of your AMR solution, you have to set the technology up to succeed. This may mean you need to re-engineer some of your processes or make changes to the way things are set up. The unique needs of AMRs, like aisle widths, docking stations and pick paths, must be considered from the beginning, not forced into a workflow that was set up for human movement. Understanding that changes are needed, and being willing to make these changes, will be the key to a smooth project.

5. Accepting fast failure

As mentioned in the previous mistake, there may be changes that need to be made in order for you to get the most out of your AMR implementation. Creating a tight project plan in the concept phase that allows for those changes is critical to getting a solid start. However, no plan is ever perfect, and it may take some time to perfect the processes. This can be a frustrating process and drive an operation to consider abandoning the project. It's important to see the changes through in order to reap the benefits, even if it takes some time to get it right. The key point here is to analyze why the failures or hiccups occurred, and adapt quickly to fix them.



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