K.Sight CLASS

Ensure maximum warehouse efficiency for the future

Belron: Room for improvement

Consultancy project delivers warehouse efficiency around the world

Introduction

Belron is the world's largest, dedicated vehicle glass repair and replacement company, and is growing. With this global growth, the requirement for new distribution centers, as well as the redevelopment of some of its existing warehouses, has become a key issue. As a result, the company recently recognized that it needed an approach to the design, or redesign, of its centers that could be more or less replicated around the world. Having researched the market for IT based solutions, Belron chose Körber K.Sight CLASS.

This combines the hands-on experience of the Körber team in warehouse and logistics planning with the use of CLASS, the leading warehouse design and simulation tool developed by Körber, and other analytic systems. The first projects involved the design of two new warehouses, one in Athens and the other in Brazil. The issues at the two sites were, however, quite different. In Athens, the team was moving from a dysfunctional warehouse spread across six floors to a potentially more efficient, single story building and the key

Quick facts: Belron

- **Headquarters:** United Kingdom
- **Number of employees:** 27,000
- **Solution:** K.Sight CLASS

At a glance

- A collaborative and supportive process, helping companies achieve optimal warehouse efficiency
- A warehouse consultancy service managed by specialists using a unique warehouse modeling tool
- A tried and tested approach, customized to meet the specific objectives of each client
- Enables managers to ensure maximum warehouse efficiency into the future
- Accessible technology providing the option for independent future use

concern was capacity today and into the future. By contrast, the new Brazilian warehouse was much bigger than the existing center and the challenge was to facilitate the best pick sequencing from day one in order to ensure maximum efficiency across the large space.

Working through the process

Historically Panda had made operational decisions based on expert judgment and spreadsheets analysis. Moving forward the company wanted to use sophisticated and accurate simulation software to help evaluate projects, initiatives and expansion plans.

Both projects followed certain key processes involving close teamwork between Belron and Körber. Beginning with project scoping, data was then collected covering current and projected sales, product profile, the mix of fast and slow movers and delivery patterns. In Athens, a significant question was the necessity, or otherwise, of adding a mezzanine floor, as well as the size of the marshaling yard outside and whether it was possible to introduce a fitting area onto the site. In Brazil, where the product range included a larger proportion of fast moving goods that was forecast to grow rapidly, the objective was to ensure that the warehouse would cope efficiently for the next three years. In the course of five days consulting in Greece and four in Brazil, a series of models were run using CLASS in particular to model the process flows and, in the case of Brazil, to identify how to maximize the use of a large and expensive labor force. In this case, work also extended to simulations of the new warehouse. Belron took the opportunity to motivate staff, currently working in the rather cramped conditions of an old facility, by showing them 3D fly-throughs of their warehouse environment to come.

The virtual becomes reality

The final model for the Athens site has now been implemented and experience has shown that the virtual can bear a very close resemblance to reality and that the efficiency levels predicted by the Warehouse Solution Design exercise have been achieved by re-organizing the warehouse as proposed. Other projects are now ongoing in the USA and Canada, and Körber has trained a team from Belron in the use of CLASS so that certain modeling work can, in future, be handled independently by the company.

"Körber was a very responsive project partner and helped us achieve models that are proving to be extremely close to the real thing. As a result, we are now delivering the highest levels of efficiency in our warehouse operation."

- Richard Cooke, supply chain manager at Belron