

A Körber Industry Best Practice

# Increasing storage capacity through automation

How we increased Coca-Cola Europacific Partners' storage capacity and throughput, with zero operational disruption

## Snapshot:

Company:	<b>Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (CCEP)</b>
Industry:	<b>Beverages</b>
Number of Antwerp employees:	<b>300</b>
Antwerp warehouse expansion:	<b>+9,400 pallet locations</b>
Körber Competency:	<b>Automation and Storage</b>
Solutions(s):	<b>Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS)</b>



## Complexity

To extend and modernize CCEP's existing ASRS, without affecting the warehouse's daily operations.

## Best Practice

An expansion of the existing ASRS, including a new 32-meter-high clad-rack equipped with four cranes.

**+9.400**

pallet locations

**30%**

throughput increase

**Zero**

disruption during installation

## Demanding higher capacity

In Belgium, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (CCEP) produces and distributes a broad range of beverages to approximately 12 million consumers every year.

To improve service to these consumers, and contribute to the baseline business goal of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, CCEP sought to optimize their supply chain network, reduce external storage and concentrate operations to production sites. In this process, 90% of all external warehousing was redirected to Antwerp, leading to a need for significantly more warehouse capacity there.

## Setting the goals

To accommodate this increase in volume, CCEP decided to extend and expand the existing automated warehouse. This meant adding 47% more pallet locations, reaching a total of 29,400, and increasing operational throughput by 30%.

The widening range, and fast-changing nature, of the SKUs meant the existing conveyor system needed modernization while the warehouse was being expanded. This way it could handle and store different pallet types and sizes, as well as the increase in volume.



## Delivering the project

To minimize disruptions and downtime to CCEP's on-site logistic operations, a strategically phased installation was collaboratively planned.

For the extension and modernization of the existing conveyor system, we installed:

- a new inbound transportation infeed
- a new connection with production lines
- new and resilient routes between infeed, ASRS, and dispatch

To make this process as smooth as possible, we developed a special set of tailor-made conveyors. This facilitated integration with the existing system – saving precious operational time on-site.

At the same time, the extension of the automated warehouse and construction of a new high-bay warehouse were underway. This included:

- Four double mast, double pallet stacker cranes
- New racking with over 32 meters of height and 9,400 pallet locations
- Cladding, firewalls, sprinklers, smoke detection, ventilation, and lighting

Integration with the existing WCS meant that all testing, commissioning and “go-live” had to be developed in different phases, and in a live production environment. To make this work, the areas were divided and the interventions were made during weekends and nightshifts.

**“The main challenge was to install, commission and start up the system without impacting our service level, and without disturbing our operations at the site. This has been achieved with a close cooperation with the Körber-team.”**

### Attila Csongrad

Engineering Project Manager, CCEP

## Reducing costs and CO<sub>2</sub>

Our automation solutions helped CCEP achieve significant storage and transport cost savings, and also contributed to a direct reduction in the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of overall operations. This is foundational to CCEP's environmental policy, and was one of the baseline goals of the project.

Antwerp is now the most important distribution center in Belgium, and our reliable and cost-efficient system makes them ready for the challenges of today, and tomorrow.

Our service team is always on available, ensuring a high level of system availability and operational resilience. Our 24/7 hotline means CCEP, as with all other clients, can communicate with our technicians and operators at any time, for any reason. Furthermore, our technical team will also perform preventive maintenance with CCEP's own teams twice a year, proactively reducing the possibility of future downtime.

**“The Körber-team was able to build and to start up the new ASRS in less than 15 months, which was incredibly good, taking into account all the issues caused by the pandemic last year, including travel limitations.”**

### Guy Vansant

Associate Director for Logistics Operations, CCEP

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