

Investment in expected growth

BIAL: Gearing up for the anticipated surge in operations volume.



BIAL, a pharmaceutical company headquartered in Porto, Portugal, never stops to discover and develop life-saving medicines. With a worldwide presence, their mission extends beyond simply improving people’s lives. They are driven by a relentless pursuit of medical breakthroughs and a deep-rooted commitment to enhancing the well-being of individuals across the globe.

Looking ahead to the future

BIAL strives to foster a knowledgeable society that is both competitive and motivated by scientific innovation. Their dedication to integrity and dynamism sets them apart in the pharmaceutical industry. In everything they do, they “Keep Life in Mind” and this is how BIAL makes the difference to the lives of millions of people around the world.

In December 2021 BIAL made a strategic decision to enhance the capabilities of their automated storage and distribution system. This move was

At a glance

Project goals

- Seamless expansion of the current automated storage and distribution system
- Boosted supply chain efficiency
- Increased overall flexibility

Solution

- Curve-going pallet stacker crane
- Pallet conveyor system
- Fire protection system

Features and benefits

- + 2,236 pallet locations
- Upgraded WCS
- Additional throughput of 60 pal/h
- Boosted efficiency and increased storage capacity



prompted by their anticipation of a significant surge in operational volume in the upcoming years.

By investing in upgrading their warehouse, BIAL aimed to effectively manage the projected increase in demand for their products and ensure seamless distribution to their global network of customers.

Teaming up with Körber

Selecting a reliable supply chain solutions partner rather swift due to the longstanding trustful business relationships established with Körber. The foundation of this relationship was laid back in 2004, and since then, Körber has consistently proven its expertise and has always delivered on their promises.

“Körber has proven to be a reliable partner for over 17 years. From initial consultation to solution development and ongoing support, we trust their supply chain and especially automation expertise. With Körber, we can realize our growth potential and know that we will stay ahead of challenges. That means we have a reliable supply chain which will provide security to existing customers and also generate new business.”

Albertina Miranda

Head of Logistic and Distribution at BIAL

Throwback to 2004

Körber successfully commissioned the automated storage and distribution system for finished pharmaceutical goods, raw materials and packages, including a conveyor link between the warehouse and the production facilities.

Additionally, a pick-to-light order picking solution was implemented to guarantee seamless intralogistics operations.

The system accommodated 3,284 euro-pallets of two height classes (1250 mm / 1850 mm) stored in the racking configuration with the dimensions of:

•Length (m): 54.50

•Width (m): 13.00

Height (m): 21.55

and handled by 1 curve-going stacker crane, which ensured pallet handling rate of 54 pal/h.

Having reached the desired “altitude” in the automated warehouse capacity and throughput, BIAL continued its steady course towards becoming a pro at ensuring everything operates with utmost efficiency. Until December 2021...

It was when the pharmaceutical company approached Körber, a renowned expert in supply chain technology, seeking to elevate their Finished Products Warehouse to new heights.

With the task on board,

the Körber’s team got down to extension of the existing high-bay warehouse by the installation of a new self-supporting single deep racking system of 2 aisles connected by curves. The endeavor resulted in additional 2,236 pallet locations operated by an aisle-switch stacker crane which ensured 60 pal/h maximum handling rate.

The system enhancement included installation of the new conveyor system elements as well as reconfiguration of the existing conveyor lines to link new operational areas.

The scope of supply comprised the in-rack fire extinguishing system for the new storage area.

Delivering improvements to business

BIAL upgraded the existing software to the latest version of Körber’s K.Motion Warehouse Management System which is web-based, thus providing the pharma company with impressive flexibility.

Undoubtedly, the system expansion brought in a range of advantages including boosted storage capacity and increased throughput. As of today, the company makes the most of the existing space freeing it up other internal processes. Ultimately, this enables BIAL to enhance its product delivery to customers, ensuring faster and more efficient service.

