

Windmöeller & Höelscher Corporation (W&H), a global supplier of advanced flexographic and gravure printing presses, blown and cast film extrusion systems and multiwall bag making machines, recently needed additional capacity in their comprehensive, multi-million dollar Rhode Island facility.

Challenges

Increased orders and an expanded product line from parent company, W&H of Germany, created a critical need for more space. Additionally, the storage and retrieval process of picking various products, ranging from very small machine parts to several hundred pound storage crates, was inefficient and time consuming, and would need to be optimized in the 15,700 sq. ft. warehouse to meet increased demands.



At the same time, customers visiting the W&H facility encountered an unimpressive warehouse stacked with hundreds of crates and bins. Javeed Buch, Vice President - Service/Multiwall Sales, wanted to create a more impressive area for customers so the importance of aesthetics was a critical element in redesigning their warehouse. Another challenge was implementing all these significant changes in the existing warehouse with zero disruption to the operation.

Solution

After a thorough selection process, W&H partnered with Abel Womack to implement a customized solution to significantly increase their storage capacity without costly facility expansion. In a collaborative effort to avoid any downtime, the project was rolled out in phases, beginning with the replacement of an

old, unsightly mezzanine with a new, larger one, resulting in increased vertical storage. The second phase of the job utilized Spacesaver's ActivRAC system. Rails were anchored directly to the concrete floor and industrial cantilever racking moved back and forth on carriages, creating additional

storage bays in a smaller footprint. The final phase of the project was the installation of a Western Pacific shelving supported pick module. By color matching the entire new system design in red and white, W&H was able to create a cleaner, more aesthetically-pleasing look for customers visiting the warehouse.

Results

The end result is a scalable system that allowed W&H to increase storage capacity by 150% without any expansion and dramatically alter the visual impact of their facility. "Abel Womack took the time to understand our process and met our requirements," said Buch. In addition, W&H was able to handle the increased demand with their current labor force on small parts and finished goods orders, avoiding additional man hours.



Windmöeller & Höelscher Challenges

- Storage space at capacity
- Inefficient storage/retrieval
- Aesthetic warehouse design

Abel Womack Solution

- Western Pacific mezzanine
- Spacesaver's ActivRAC system
- Western Pacific shelving supported pick module

Benefits

- Increased storage density
- Increased picking efficiencies
- Improved aesthetic appeal