PRESS RELEASE

E-Commerce, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and an Increase in Warehouse Automation

Warehouse management software responds to newest trends

Fürstenfeldbruck, 23.02.2016. The leading annual trade fair for intralogistics in Europe, LogiMAT 2016, opens its doors again shortly in Stuttgart. This puts the spotlight on the latest sector trends: e-commerce, cloud computing, the Fourth Industrial Revolution (or Industry 4.0), the Internet of Things and an increase in logistics automation. As both software and intralogistics experts, CIM GmbH see the impact of these trends every day in their customers’ warehouses and choosing the right warehouse management software is pivotal to implementing them successfully.

“The current trends in the industry such as the expansion of e-commerce, Industry 4.0, the Internet of Things and the increase in warehouse optimization are posing major challenges to internal logistics processes in terms of network connectivity, efficiency and cost-effectiveness”, explains Fritz Mayr, managing director of CIM, a leading provider of warehouse management systems (WMS) based in Fürstenfeldbruck near Munich. “The WMS intercepts the large majority of the new developments and has a big impact on how they are implemented in the warehouse”.

E-Commerce

Rapid, smooth and accurate processes in the warehouse are crucial in an e-commerce context. Further challenges include speedy distribution of articles, low-volume shipments, quick availability, high stock reliability, extensive product ranges, a high rate of returns and short response times. All of these challenges place high demands on IT systems in the warehouse. “Our customers are able to achieve a high level of stock reliability and rapid availability of goods for multiple small shipments through efficient picking. There is a variety of picking options: two-step picking or multi-order picking is especially common when working with small parts. The picker retrieves several pallets and distributes them among multiple orders”, explains Mayr. Supporting systems such as pick by light and RF picking (radio frequency) help to speed up the picking process and minimize errors. The software guarantees a high level of stock reliability

thanks to stocktaking for small quantities. As part of the picking process, the WMS queries whether the quantity remaining at a storage location according to the software corresponds to reality and continuously adjusts stock levels. A forklift routing system keeps article lead times short and efficient – resulting in speedy delivery times. Multiple orders can be pooled to create shipments and priority treatment given to rush orders. “The big issue of returns handling is very simple with a good warehouse management system”, continues Mayr. “It’s crucial that warehouse staff have the means to process incoming returns as speedily as possible. The software must be capable of handling a high volume of returns and staff need to be able to decide quickly whether to put the goods back into storage, pass them on to quality assurance for inspection or of dispose of them”.

**Industry 4.0 and Increased Automation**
Automated facilities in the warehouse such as stacker cranes, shuttles and robots are becoming smarter than ever and are networked in order to cooperate efficiently. They are increasingly organized as autarchic systems with the WMS taking the role of supervisor – monitoring, optimizing and steering events and responsible for overall control of the various components in the facility. Event-triggered control systems which provide a clear overview of the most important KPIs are becoming essential in the light of new trends. The software autonomously activates the relevant optimization mechanisms based on the information provided by the KPIs.

**Cloud Computing**
The new trends promise to bring new pace and fresh dynamism to the warehouse. The focus is no longer on rigidly programming individual applications: warehouse management software needs to be standardized and yet configurable in order to be able to respond directly to complex changes. “Cloud services are increasing the flexibility of the software. The future is likely to bring ‘takeaway’ warehouse management systems with other people to handle IT, server and maintenance issues”, concludes Mayr.

Visitors to LogiMAT 2016 can see for themselves how the new trends are being implemented in PROLAG®World. CIM will be exhibiting at **stand 7C38** in **hall 7**.

**Zahl der Anschläge insgesamt: 4311**
**Zahl der Wörter: 539**
BU: The latest trends in the intralogistics sector – Industry 4.0, the Internet of Things, the expansion of e-commerce and the increase in warehouse automation – pose major challenges for internal logistics processes in terms of network connectivity, efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

About CIM
CIM GmbH Logistik-Systeme in Fürstenfeldbruck near Munich was founded in 1985 and is a leading supplier of Warehouse Management Systems (WMS). The company’s WMS solution, PROLAG®World, is SAP-certified and is validated annually by the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics. CIM GmbH is certified ISO 9001:2008 compliant. PROLAG®World is platform-independent and can be accessed worldwide via the internet. Further information at www.cim.de

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