



Automation driving the logistics industry

Automation is the game-changer for the logistics industry; improved efficiencies, reduced costs and a significant boost to revenues by creating new value-added opportunities.

The challenge

The challenge for any company looking to future-proof its business through automation is to find a partner who understands the company vision and has the technical capability to design, build and deliver a solution on time and within budget; preferably without disrupting existing production schedules. CKF is a leading UK integrator of automated solutions, providing high speed robotic pick, place and palletising systems for the warehouse and logistics industry. CKF utilises the latest robotic and vision applications to enable businesses of all sizes to increase efficiencies by improving productivity and reducing costs.

As the volume of e-commerce orders increases, so does consumer demand for quicker delivery times and greater choice. Offering more choice may lead to revenue growth but it also increases the complexity in order fulfilment and back-end costs. Similarly, the drive to ensure that warehouses are more tightly integrated with the manufacturing processes and distribution networks must be expertly handled if the potential benefits are to be fully realised.

Our approach

At CKF Systems we recognise the importance of working in partnership with our clients to create solutions that deliver across a range of criteria. From increasing the flexibility of the operation to improving stock control, reducing waste and speeding up processes that offer delivery slots in less time and with greater certainty. Automated systems, vision applications and collaborative robots are the key to a 'smarter' and more successful operation. They also enable a company to create additional value-added services to attract new business, strengthen existing customer relationships and grow revenues.

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Reaping the benefits

Established in 1988, CKF specialises in the design and delivery of automated systems to the logistics and warehousing industries. We work closely with our customers to challenge existing norms, utilising latest robotic technologies and vision applications to meet the objectives of the investment and establish a competitive advantage. Our solutions are robust, proven, user-friendly and easy to maintain.

In a recent commission, installed over a 12-week period, productivity is now running at over 98% and the new robot system has helped to reduce costs and the customer's carbon footprint by increasing the pallet stacking height to 1.7 metres, resulting in more products stacked on one pallet. Adding more products to a pallet means that a greater volume of stock can be delivered using fewer vehicles whilst warehouse space is better utilised.

It has changed the face of the business, making it more cost effective, improving the already high standards of safety and enabling the work force to achieve greater levels of collaboration than ever before. It has also improved the environment by reducing vehicle movements whilst the flexibility of the new system has opened the door to providing wanorincreased level of add-on services. During the installation the customer lost only 12 hours of production time.

Investment in the future

At CKF we place the same importance upon investment as our customers do. In recent years we have invested heavily to strengthen our in-house capabilities and moved in to new state of the art premises, doubling our floor space and incorporating a factory-acceptance test and trial facility where new systems are pre-tested for accuracy and precision.

Our commitment to engineering excellence is ongoing and we take great pride in recruiting and developing the best available engineering talent. It's why we have been able to maintain our market-leading reputation for three decades. We currently employ 50 engineers, all resourceful, capable and motivated individuals, prepared to listen, ready to deliver and encouraged always to challenge the norm to deliver for our customer the best possible solution.

CKF is fully responsible for everything, from the end of line conveying and product handling to the installation of a centralised full robotic system. It can include stretch wrapping of pallets, labelling if required, double stacking prior to despatch and the moving of product through to the dispatch bays. We work across a range of industries including many where the challenges invariably have a high degree of complexity.

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