

Singapore gets new automated warehouse and order picking system

** September 6, 2013 **

New benchmark set for the logistics industry with Asia's first automated storage and order picking system

Yesterday, Texas Instruments (TI), DHL Supply Chain, and Swisslog jointly unveiled Asia's first distribution centre featuring the AutoStore® automated storage and order picking system.

The US\$10 million upgrade to TI's Product Distribution Centre, which is located in DHL Supply Chain's hub in the Free Trade Zone in Singapore, quadruples the facility's storage capacity, and marks a technological leap forward in warehouse management.

DHL Supply Chain CEO South East Asia Oscar de Bok says the automation allows four times the volume of products to be stored within the same floor space.

"It increases productivity by some 40 percent and vastly improves accuracy and visibility of the inventory," de Bok says.

Such turnkey logistics solutions are a boon for land-scarce countries like Singapore where land and labour costs run high.

"DHL has pioneered the implementation of AutoStore® in Asia for the semiconductor industry, and it can be similarly applied to a broad range of industries," de Bok adds.

TI Asia President Larry Tan says the facility will now be able to store up to 2 billion semiconductor units, up from its previous 500 million.

"The new automation solution delivers the same level of innovation we promise to deliver to our customers every day," Tan says.

Singapore Economic Development Board Deputy Managing Director Quek Swee Kuan commends the three companies for enhancing competitiveness and global distribution capabilities.

"This investment in state-of-the-art warehousing solutions exemplifies how the logistics industry in Singapore can achieve growth and competitiveness through operational excellence and productivity gains," says Kuan.

The advanced AutoStore® system, which eliminates the need for aisles, comprises a massive grid measuring 65m x 18m x 5.4m.

Thirty six robots ply the top of the grid to both store and extract products based on the orders placed through the AutoStore® Control System (ACS), which acts as the nerve centre, controlling the entire inventory flow in and out of the grid.

“There is no bigger innovation in the material handling industry than a solution that increases both storage capacity and productivity,” Swisslog Head of South East Asia Koh Seng Teck says.