

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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Bleckmann quadruples their Kardex AutoStore

Leading third-party logistics provider Bleckmann has accelerated the expansion of its Kardex AutoStore system at its Grobbendonk, Belgium, facility—completing a multi-year growth plan in just one year due to the system’s exceptional performance, scalability, and efficiency. Originally intended to expand in phases over several years to reach nearly 100,000 bins and 71 robots, Bleckmann decided to bring forward the entire expansion to the end of 2024.

This rapid growth underscores the AutoStore empowered by Kardex solution’s ability to optimize warehouse operations, significantly reduce labor requirements, and maximize space utilization—offering seven times the efficiency of manual fulfillment methods. With the extension, Bleckmann enhances its services by offering a multiclient AutoStore solution to multiple customers, setting itself apart with this unique selling proposition.

A futureproof automation success story

The initial Kardex AutoStore system, which went live in late 2023, was fully operational in just five months from order placement, seamlessly integrating with Bleckmann’s logistics network. The expansion from 25,000 to 100,000 bins was completed without downtime or operational disruption, demonstrating the system’s modular and scalable nature. Facing increasing order volumes and labor shortages, Bleckmann needed a high-efficiency solution to enhance fulfillment speed and optimize warehouse space. The Kardex AutoStore system met these demands with minimal energy consumption (ten robots use the same amount of power as a single vacuum cleaner) aligning perfectly with Bleckmann’s sustainability goals at its 100% solar-powered facility.

Enhanced scalability, speed, and sustainability

The initial system comprised a 25,000-bin AutoStore grid, 24 robots, and five ergonomic ports. Since implementation, order cycles have accelerated by 60%, throughput has increased, and picking errors have decreased—resulting in greater customer satisfaction and retention. The expanded system now features seven Carousel Ports, with five additional pick ports in development ahead of Black Friday 2025. Kardex’s innovations have further enhanced the AutoStore system. The dedicated Kardex Warehouse Control System (WCS) has streamlined operations, while an automatic Robot Cleaning Station ensures system reliability. Additionally, a multiple conveyor port enables simultaneous replenishment across three bins, drastically improving inbound processing efficiency.

A Collaborative Success Story

Eric Ebbers, Senior Sales Manager at Kardex, stated: *“We are thrilled to support Bleckmann in pushing the boundaries of warehouse automation. The Kardex AutoStore solution is designed for scalability, allowing Bleckmann to start small and expand seamlessly. This partnership is a testament to the power of innovation and collaboration.”*

Kevin Paindeville, Director of Innovations and Warehouse Solutions at Bleckmann, added: *“The flexibility and scalability of the Kardex AutoStore system have exceeded our expectations. We’ve been able to ramp up to full capacity in just one year without disrupting operations, reinforcing our commitment to efficiency and customer satisfaction.”*

Jens Hooyberghs, Automation Project Manager at Bleckmann, emphasized: *“The system automatically prioritizes high-demand items for faster dispatch, making a significant difference during peak sales periods. Kardex AutoStore is proving to be a key asset in making our operations more efficient, sustainable, and future-ready.”*

Watch [the case study video here](#); listen to Bleckmann’s [Beyond Threads podcast](#)

About Kardex

Kardex is a leading global partner for intralogistics solutions in an attractive and growing market. The Group offers premium automated products, standardized systems and lifecycle services that guarantee high availability and low total cost of ownership. Kardex provides an intelligent entry into automation with its dynamic storage and retrieval systems, offers integrated material handling systems, small parts storage systems, and automated high-bay warehouses, and is global AutoStore partner, offering flexible and modular storage and order fulfillment solutions. The Group employs around 2,500 people in over 30 countries. Kardex Holding AG has been listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange since 1989. For more information, please visit www.kardex.com.

About Bleckmann

Bleckmann is a market leader in supply chain management (SCM) services for fashion and lifestyle brands. Founded in 1862, Bleckmann evolved from a transportation company to a provider of complete supply chain solutions with specific expertise in e-fulfilment. From its strong base in Europe, the company expanded into the US and Asia, enabling Bleckmann to serve customers around the world. Its investments and extensive experience in IT solutions ensure that Bleckmann offers a unified platform to its customers worldwide. Around 6500 team members are ready to support Bleckmann's customers and fulfil their promises every day. With sales of 641 million euros (revenue 2024), Bleckmann has the scale and flexibility to provide world-class solutions for its customers. For more information, visit www.bleckmann.com

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