



## Automatic Guided Vehicles Link Production and Shipping

### Features and Benefits

Significantly reduce pallet and product damage

No plant interruption during installation

Flexible solution for changing production demands at plant.

Safe, reliable and timely delivery of finished product

**Industry Group:** Automatic Guided Vehicle Systems (AGVS)



*As a result of the AGV project, the customer team was recognized with the annual Total Cost Out Corporate Business Unit award for imagination*

A seven vehicle automatic guided vehicle (AGV) system was installed to streamline operations in the packaging area of a production plant. The plant produces plastic resin that is used in making durable items such as compact disks. The idea for this improvement came as a result of a Six Sigma Quality Program event.

Much of the production in this facility has been automated for years. But until recently, the movement of boxes from the finishing line to the truck to the warehouse, was done by workers driving fork lifts.

The AGV system was installed to eliminate the non value added jobs so that workers could be reassigned to do more important tasks. The AGV system transports full pallets of finished product weighing up to 4,000 lbs from output conveyors on each production line to the shipping dock area. Each conveyor stand is monitored with sensors and when a full pallet arrives, an AGV is automatically dispatched to pick up the load.

Significant involvement by the customer's cross-functional team helped assure the success of the project. They took ownership in understanding every step of the project. This involvement helped to provide smooth integration between interface hardware and software.

Throughout the transport process, scanners reading tags on the boxes and pallets, track the material as it is moved through the plant.



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