

Athletic hearts beat faster

DECATHLON

To share their enthusiasm for sport is the company's philosophy. DECATHLON, whose employees live and love sport, offers more than 35,000 articles for over 70 different sports. To supply sport enthusiasts with articles as fast as possible, the Dürkopp Sorter Pocket was put in the game.

Since the end of 2017 a Dürkopp Pocket Sorter System sorts flat-packed goods for customer orders. DECATHLON processes orders in two central warehouses. The Schwetzingen location supplies sports articles to stores throughout Southern Germany and fulfils e-commerce orders.



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July 27, 1976

Michel Leclercq opened his first sporting goods store in Lille on July 27, 1976, thereby founding the company DECATHLON.

1986

In 1986, DECATHLON started to produce sporting goods under their own name; in the same year, the first store outside of France opened in Dortmund-Kley.

2016

By 2016, there were 1065 stores in 29 countries, mostly in France (302) and China (169) and, in the meantime (2018), 52 in Germany.

2017

With more than 10 billion € turnover (2017) and more than 70,000 employees, DECATHLON is one of the largest makers and retailers of sport articles in the world.

2018

At the corporate campus in Villeneuve-d'Ascq (Northern France), more than 530 engineers and 150 product designers develop up to 2,800 products and about 40 patents every year.

Growth & Impact



More than 35,00
articles for over 70
different sports



Nine buffers each
provide capacity
for 1,400 items



40
patents every
year

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Ergonomic workstations

Many connect sport activities with the feeling of freedom, wide open space and the retreat from everyday stress. Naturally, you cannot move technology to the great outdoors, but you can offer employees a comfortable environment in which to work. Green plants face the warehouse worker and images with sport scenes provide a visually inspiring work environment. The workstations are bright and spaciouly planned.

The conveyor system stretches across two halls to provide a quiet environment for the employees. In hall 1 there are 8 loading and 23 pack stations, whereby the run buffer, the sequence sorter and the empty pocket buffer are all located in hall 1, divided across 3 levels and removed from the employee work stations.

Both the loading and the pack stations are ergonomically designed and offer the warehouse worker height-adjustable tables and the opportunity to work seated or standing as they fill the 16,000 Sorter Pockets and feed them into the system.

Large article range

With over 70 types of sports to offer, the article range that is entered into the system in the Dürkopp pockets is accordingly large. Even non-fashion items, such as backpacks, balls or camping articles packed in cartons have their place. Most of the articles are read using RFID, and an integrated RFID antenna is located at the loading station for this purpose. Other articles are read by a barcode reader.

Large article range

From the loading station, the pockets are forwarded to the dynamic pick buffer. Nine buffers each provide capacity for 1,400 items. The selection of complete customer shipments is carried out by the sequence sorter, which then conveys the individual articles in the specified sequence to the pack area.

At 23 pack stations, the single items are taken from the pockets and, depending on volume, packed in a carton or an envelope. The empty pockets are conveyed on an automatic return buffer conveyor to the infeed points to be filled again.