



## Industrial Engine Distributor Revs Up Facility with Vertical Lift Module System

### Features and Benefits

Efficiency & ergonomics greatly enhanced

Parts are consolidated and contained

Organized, cleaner and neater

Room for expansion

**Industry Group:** Automated  
Storage/Retrieval Systems (ASRS)



The world's largest distributor of industrial engines and a leading supplier of remanufactured industrial engines purchased a new 40,000 square foot building to consolidate and centralize three of its four facilities. The installation of high-density storage and material handling equipment in the new facility will help accommodate the company's continued rapid growth.

Inventory had previously been housed on rack shelves and metal part bins. The double-deck storage area consumed about 8,000 square feet of total bin space, plus some additional bulk racks.

The supplier's distributor worked with the company and with a thorough study determined that the total inventory requirements could be met with 2 ½ VLM's. Three units mounted side-by-side solved the immediate problem and provided room for expansion.

The company concluded they could never have fit the entire inventory in the new building without the VLM's. The reason is that this warehouse is responsible for 5,000 different parts to accommodate approximately 380 different engine configurations.

The company chose the supplier's inventory control software to interface with its internal software system. This powerful tool enables eight internal sales people to key orders all day and send them directly to the warehouse via computer. The warehouse personnel are able to review the order information and decide when it is most efficient to run a batch of orders. Having access to this information frees the crew to perform other work in the warehouse.

Warehouse personnel use a system called batch processing which allows one person to pick all the parts for a batch from a shelf or section, and then proceed to the next part number. Under the old system three or four people would walk through an 8,000 square foot area, including climbing stairs, to process an order. Now, one or two people can walk just 27 feet back and forth in front of the VLM's to do the job. This represents tremendous savings of time and manpower.

The company's Operations Manager concludes, "Our VLM's have helped us in a lot of ways, from consolidating space, saving time and energy spent processing orders, to managing inventory controls. This all translates into better utilization and more profit for the company."



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