

CVS Health

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1400 Williams Road
York, PA 17402
717-840-8181
info@stonge.com
www.StOnge.com
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CVS Health



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Project Overview:

- **CVS Health**, Logistics Supply Chain Systems (LSCS) group, identified over 30 targeted use cases (opportunities for automation and robotics) that spanned multiple functions of the DC (e.g., AMR movement, picking robotics, automated tote palletization, automated mail order consolidation, return tote detrash automation, and automated inventory reconciliation via drones or other automation).
- St. Onge assisted use case pilot prioritization process.



Use Case Assessment. St. Onge reviewed specific use case processes applicable to CVS facilities then provided recommendations of which technologies/methodologies were applicable to each facility.

Use Case Justification. St. Onge included labor staffing, space footprint, and equipment capital required for each specified use case area. This information was used to generate a comparative return on investment and fiscal justification compared to existing processes.

Use Case Information. St. Onge provided a list of applicable vendors who were able to supply and integrate the technology. This information lead to use case pilot implementation/validation.

Technology Evaluated	Robotic Palletizer - Uniform Case	Layer Palletizer - Uniform Case	Gantry Palletizer - Uniform Case	Robotic Layer Palletizer - Mixed Case	Robotic Palletizer - Mixed Case	Mobile Robotic Palletizer - Mixed Case
Description	An articulated robotic arm on a floor mounted base can obtain one to four totes at a time and place to a pallet similar to operators today	A conventional conveyor fed system that utilizes row forming and layer forming conditioner to deposited on the top of the prior layer.	A gantry robotic arm on frame mounted system, a type of system applicable when many to or from locations need access.	An articulated robotic arm on a floor mounted base with the ability to obtain and place items of random varied dimension.	A conveyor fed system that can place many cases to a pallet at the same time with a high overall rate but limited application.	An articulated robotic arm is attached to an autonomous mobile robot - this technology may one day replace human operators
Example Vendors	Columbia, Okura, CCS, PASCO	Columbia, Intelligent, Qimaxe	CINCO, Skilled Group, Macron Dynamics	RDW, Swisslog, Witron	Boston Dynamics, Pickle, Dorabot	Orto, Kuka, Dematic
Vendor Support Risk	No Risk, Many Installs	No Risk, Many Installs	Minor Risk, Few Vendors	Minor Risk, Few Vendors	Major Risk, VC Funding	Major Risk, VC Funding
Commonality - Installs	Many Installs, Proven	Many Installs, Proven	Many Installs, Limited	Few Installs, Grocery	Few Installs, Pilots	No Installs, Pilots
General Cost	●	●	●	●	●	●
General Rate	●	●	●	●	●	●
Technology Maturity	● options	●	●	●	●	●
Complexity - Preinstall	● options	●	●	●	●	●
Random Cases	● options	●	●	●	●	●
Flexibility - Postinstall	Software can be upgraded for mixed case capabilities	Can change tote size, can not do mixed case.	Not ideal for mixed case applications due top apply	Requires sequencing for mixed case but possible	Ideal setup, may require second pallet to buffer	Some benefits of a robotic palletizer on a mobile base

Detailed Evaluations