

Dating back to 1903, Abbott Nutrition has been an innovator in infant, children, adult and performance nutrition.

Abbott's nutrition business can be traced to modest beginnings where science, ingenuity and commitment came together with groundbreaking results.

Over the decades, Abbott Nutrition has grown to become Abbott's biggest division, representing 31 percent of sales in 2013. With a continuing emphasis on customer-focused innovation that led to dozens of product launches, serving markets in more than 100 countries worldwide. Abbott Nutrition has plants and distribution centers to serve customers globally, including new plants in India, China and the United States. This business is a central part of Abbott's commitment to help people live healthy and thrive.

Abbott Nutrition is the manufacturer of Ensure®, Similac® and PediaSure® brands.



The Problem

Abbott Nutrition was quickly running out of room in the warehouse of their Columbus, Ohio manufacturing facility. Production had increased, causing Abbott to require a larger inventory of raw materials to be kept on-hand. Being land-locked in that location, Abbott needed another option to building a new facility. One of their trusted suppliers convinced them that creating a high-density storage system in the existing warehouse space was the right answer. That is when they turned to Automha Americas for a solution to the problem.

The Solution

Pallet Runner® is a semi-automated, deep lane storage system that is suited to applications with high volume SKU's. Pallets are loaded into the system by a lift truck and transported into deep lanes by the Pallet Runner® carts. Once the load is positioned, the cart returns to the front of the system to receive the next pallet. With the cart doing the deep lane transport, the lift truck operator only travels between the load source and the lane entry, maximizing productivity and minimizing travel distances.

The Result

With the Pallet Runner® system, Abbott was able to add approximately 35% more pallet loads in the same footprint. In addition, they were able to eliminate (3) lift trucks from the operation.

