



“Automation applied to an efficient operation will magnify the efficiency”

Bill Gates

Automated Stock Picking

A comprehensive analysis of our operations and trends was held to identify the best distribution systems to install in the new warehouse.

All technology options were considered, including our existing methods for picking stock.

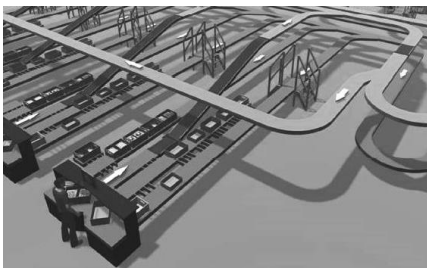
There are a number of different technologies available and we have decided to implement a 'shuttle' solution as it is the best fit for our particular needs.



We are partnering with TGW Logistics Group to use their Stingray shuttle system, which is the most advanced storage and retrieval process available today.

100 shuttles will be used to travel between 95,000 tote locations, climbing racks that are 20 metres high to collect stock.

There will be ten 'goods to person' picking stations where operators will consolidate customer orders. The stations will process up to 450 order lines each hour with the highest degree of accuracy.



Fast moving items will be automatically moved to locations close to the picking stations to minimise the amount of time it takes to collect the stock for each order.

Project Workshops

A programme of workshops is underway to discuss a wide range of process areas.

More than 60 workshops will be held this autumn, adding up to over 300 hours of discussions with many of the sessions lasting a full day.

The business process owners on the project are representing the requirements of the distribution, finance and publishing teams at the workshops.

Sessions were held in September to cover the operational processes for the Warehouse Management System.



Those for the Order to Cash workstream will continue until early November and cover subject areas ranging from order processing to credit management.

Designs for future processes will be produced as outputs from the workshops and these will be proposed from late November.

Latest FAQs

How quick is the Stingray shuttle system?

We expect the system to make up to 4,400 visits to stock locations each hour to retrieve stock.

How much IT data storage will we need?

We are purchasing hardware to accommodate more than two petabytes of data. That's two thousand terabytes or the equivalent of around three million CDs!

Meet the Project Team

Representatives from the IT team are also working on the project to manage the roll-out of the new systems.

Todd Alder

IT Delivery Director



Todd joined the group in 2009 and is the Director of IT Solutions. He will be leading the delivery of the IT elements of the programme alongside his current role.

Sudhakar Ramanan

Integration Architect



During the last eight years, Sudhakar has architected many of the group's IT solutions. His knowledge of the current technical landscape will be key to ensuring a smooth integration between the new and existing systems.

Lee Eastoe

SAP Solution Architect



Lee will provide in-depth SAP expertise on the project, having worked in a number of SAP finance roles before joining Hachette IT late last year.

Coming Soon

In future issues, you will find out where you can view information in a world without Vista. This will include access to order reports, stock levels, invoices and the status of deliveries.

Breaking News...

Groundbreaking for the new warehouse took place on 3rd October and construction work on the site is now underway!