

Seeberger, Germany

Seeberger GmbH, Germany's leading producer of dried fruit and nuts, uses Rocla's AGVs at its production plant in Ulm. Return on an investment in an automated transport solution was an attractive solution for Seeberger due to the high transport volumes with which it works. Accurately synchronised infeeding of raw materials to the packing machines and as little as possible intervention in the existing infrastructure were significant prerequisites for the company. The AGV stood out as the best solution in this regard. Five Rocla Automated Guided Vehicles (AGV) transport the raw materials from the warehouse to the Seeberger GmbH production facility.

The fruit and nut pallets are relatively lightweight, and this is why Seeberger chose the ATX12 model in 2012. The ATX12 is an AGV designed specifically for pallet transport, capable of lifting loads of up to 1250 kg to a height of 1800 mm. The structure of this vehicle is modular and particularly compact, making it especially suitable for use in areas with limited space.

Project manager Marc Eberhardt is pleased with Rocla's Automated Guided Vehicle (AGV) system. He stresses the reliability and efficiency of the system.

"The AGV and our automatic high bay storage facility are controlled by our production management system (PMS). This allows optimum interaction of our various systems. We achieve maximum utilisation of the AGV systems transport capacity thanks to minimal waiting times at the warehouse and accurately synchronised delivery of the raw materials to the packing machines", explains Mr. Eberhardt.

"Before commissioning, we implemented a thorough planning phase followed by various simulations. Only then were the machines deployed. We invested sufficient time in each phase in order to achieve the best possible results. The system has been running very stably since the end of the optimisation phase. No major corrections were necessary," emphasises Marc Eberhardt with satisfaction.

Admittedly, the staff were reluctant to work with the new driverless transport vehicles initially. However, they soon abandoned their reservations when it became clear how reliably, safely and efficiently the AGV works. Since the system was deployed, there have been no accidents or any damage to property.

The Seeberger production plant has a ramp sloping at an angle of 9%. One of the project objectives was to integrate this ramp into the vehicle routes without adversely impacting on the overall performance of the AGV. To do this, additional safety measures had to be implemented in order to ensure redundant detection of the ramp and also limit the speed in this area.

"The high level of automation ensures that the right goods are in the right place at the right time and in the right quantities. Moreover, we maintain a constant accurate overview of our current flow of goods and stock levels."

Marc Eberhardt, Project Manager,
Seeberger

