



Warehouse of the future

Business growth saw Seeberger needing a new warehouse. But not just any warehouse. Blended Cisco® Internet of Everything (IoE) innovation now feed state-of-the-art storage and production processes.

“We know exactly where specific goods are at any stage and have detailed information about the entire production process. Food traceability is no longer a challenge.”

Florian Paul, Deputy Manager, IT Infrastructure, Seeberger

When an order came in, raw materials were manually retrieved and brought to machines. Assembly was too slow and not structured optimally.

Challenges

- Improve production processes.
- Make best use of people and space

Variety abounds at Seeberger. Nutritional dried fruit and nuts meet quality cooking ingredients along with superb coffees. Production and supply chain operations extend beyond its Ulm headquarters to sales offices in Paris, Riga, and Shanghai.

Success fueled growth. So the company had to build a new warehouse. “We had simply run out of storage space,” says Michael Nusser, deputy team leader, support and incident management. “To control production, storage, driverless transport vehicles, administration, and much more, we wanted wireless everywhere.”

Case Study | Seeberger

Size: 560 employees

Location: Germany

Industry: Manufacturing





Material flow runs entirely over Cisco Wi-Fi with DTVs operating 24 hours a day, never taking holidays.

Solutions

- Cisco Internet of Everything (IoE) innovation
- Automated operations wirelessly linking orders, production, storage, and DTVs

Wirelessly connected operations

Seeberger became a new Cisco customer. “We looked at three vendors, but the Cisco solution was the simplest and most complete,” says Thomas Rehm, support and incident manager, Seeberger. “We built the network gradually and today our whole campus is connected via 200 Cisco wireless access points.”

Data and applications are protected by Cisco firewalls. Warehouse operations are highly integrated and automated. Temperature and humidity in the raw goods warehouse are controlled. Production needs less space for supplies, thus creating more room for new machines.

Everything runs like clockwork

When a new raw materials order is created, the system notifies the stacker cranes in the warehouse. They fetch the various goods and take them to collection points, where a driverless transport vehicle (DTV) picks up the pallet and transports it to one of 25 production machines.

An operator with a wireless terminal scans the pallet with finished products. An order is created by the warehouse management system and relayed to the DTV so it knows where to store the pallet. The DTVs drive across bridges and around corners. They even call lifts through the WLAN and are instructed to proceed after it’s safe to enter.

Results

- Automatic operations run on real-time data
- Improved view of production complexity
- Higher productivity and less waste

Everything’s integrated

Before, Seeberger could only document the storage of raw materials and finished products, or in other words, the start and end of the production process. It’s now combined all the steps in between by integrating more devices, like handheld terminals that leave a digital trace.

8
Wirelessly
Connected
DTV's Serve
25
Production
Machines




“We know exactly where specific goods are at any stage and have detailed information about the entire production process,” says Florian Paul, deputy manager, IT infrastructure, at Seeberger. “Food traceability is no longer a challenge.” For example, if a pallet of raw materials hasn’t been opened by the end of a shift, a DTV is notified wirelessly and carries it back to the temperature-controlled storage area.

Nothing’s missed

People take their workplace with them as they move around campus with laptops and mobile devices. Technicians checking sprinkler systems can record results anywhere on campus, for example. Clients and partners visiting Seeberger also benefit from secure Wi-Fi access.

“The Cisco solution means we can define and control our workplace in completely new ways,” says Paul. “And we’re able to run lots of services over the same network, making it easier to stay in step with further business growth.”

Innovation’s everywhere

The latest innovation is Cisco Unified Communications with which Seeberger can deliver fixed and mobile calls over the wireless network. Potential new projects include using the WLAN to feed production data directly into the ERP system to improve resource planning.

Products & Services

Collaboration

- Cisco Communications Manager Business Edition
- Cisco Unified IP Phones

Security

- Cisco ASA 5500-X Next Generation Firewalls

Wireless

- Cisco Aironet 1600 Series Access Points
- Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers

For More Information

For more information about the Cisco solutions featured in this case study, visit www.cisco.com/go/ioe

For more information about Seeberger, visit www.seeberger.de/en



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