Enercon Technologies Boosts Storage Capacity and Efficiency with Modula VLMs



CASE SUMMARY

Enercon Technologies is a contract manufacturer of electronics instrumentation, specializing in medical devices life sciences, military and industrial instrumentation. The company's facility is divided between manufacturing and storing devices and the tools used to create them.
As part of an expansion, the company wanted to refine its use of storage space, protect parts of dust and debris, and retrieve them more efficiently. Installing six Modula VLMs through two building floors has completely changed the way they store their inventory. By implementing vertical storage solutions, they have dramatically reduced the space needed for storage, better protected fragile electrical components and made the manufacturing and storage process much more efficient.

THE ISSUE

A crowded facility that wasn't running efficiently and exposed parts to harmful conditions

Enercon had been operating out of a 30,000-square foot manufacturing facility in which half of the floor space was tied up by inventory racking systems. With its traditional shelving storage system, Enercon faced the typical problems associated with such systems – slow retrievals, inaccurate picks and uncertain inventory tracking.

Another main challenge was posed by the nature of some of their stored parts. Electronic components are very sensitive to dust, dirt and other potential contaminants and can be damaged by electrical discharges. They needed to find a safe way to store and protect these parts.

THE SOLUTION

Installing six Modula VLMs to be operated on two separate floors

Enercon did a radical transformation of its space, installing six Modula VLMs reaching nearly 32 feet in height. Each VLM has 3 bays – 2 opposite bays on the first floor where the manufacturing process happens and 1 bay on the second floor that feeds their SMT circuit boards assembly line.
The VLMs are now used to store all the parts, and also conveniently act as an elevator for transporting parts between floors. A dual-tray delivery system helped speed up the retrieval process.

"The Modula system makes it much faster for us to pick components because before, the operators were walking between sections and looking down rows of aisles trying to find the specific location," says Garrett D. VanAtta, Director, Supply Chain. "Now the parts get delivered right in front of them."

Thanks to the enclosed system provided by the VLMs, all of their parts are now stored in a safe environment and are also protected by electrical discharges due to the installation of an ESD protection in each tray.

The space savings have been tremendous as well. Now, Enercon can store 6,749 square feet of parts in less than 538 square feet. Because of the space they've saved, Enercon is able to easily grow its operations if market demand increases. They can count on the flexibility of the VLMs to readjust their configurations if their storage needs change.



"The Modula system makes it much faster for us to pick components. Now the parts get delivered right in front of them." "The Modula systems enable us to pick components for kits much faster as the operators used to walk between sections, looking down rows of aisle trying to find a specific location. Now the parts get delivered right in front of them." —Garrett D. VanAtta, Director, Supply Chain

KEY BENEFITS

- 6,749 square feet of storage on only 538 square feet
- Fragile electrical parts protected by enclosed storage
- Efficiency boosted by rapid identification and retrieval of parts
- Work conditions dramatically improved for operators
- Flow of parts between manufacturing and storage made easier and faster
- Learning curve for training workers reduced to minute

TECHNICAL DETAILS

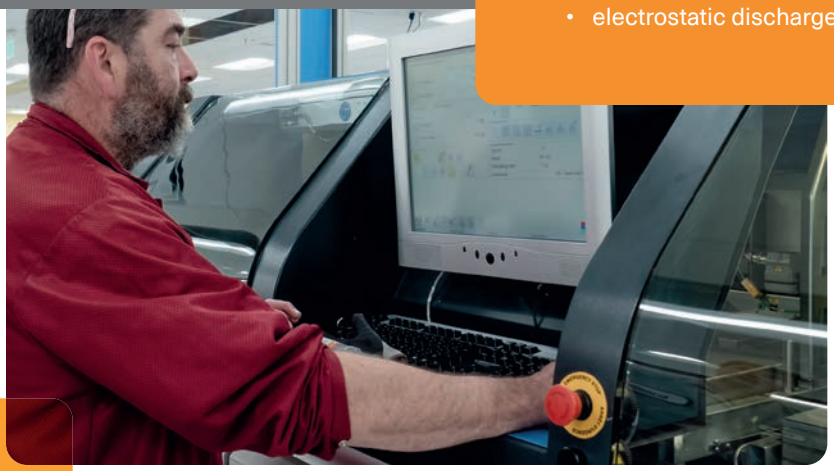
Number of Units	Six
Model	Two Modula MC50 and four Modula MC50X-10,500/BI
Bay Type	Internal, dual-delivery
Trays	50 per VLM, 98.42" x 25.75" (MC50) and 122.05" x 25.75" (MX50) holding up to 1,102 lbs per tray
VLM Height	31.82'

SOFTWARE

- Modula WMS Standard
- Advanced Picking
- Advanced Inventory Management

OPTIONS INCLUDED

- alphanumeric LED bar
- external dual-tray delivery
- external bay lights automatic door
- electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection



About the customer

Founded in 1980, Enercon Technologies is an independent electronics manufacturer located in Gray, Maine.

About Modula

Modula designs and produces automatic storage systems that dramatically boost productivity and accuracy, reduce storage spaces requirements, and enhance worker safety and job satisfaction. The only U.S. manufacturer of vertical lift modules, Modula also offers horizontal carousels, warehouse management systems, and a host of accessories that make order picking quick and easy. Established in 1987, Modula has nine branches worldwide, a network of 100 distributors, and factories in the United States, Italy, and China. More information can be found at **modula.us**.