15 Modula VLMs satisfy appetite for growth in Conad food-product operations



CASE SUMMARY

Conad Nord Ovest stores and ships food products to stores in northwest Italy and Sardinia. It needed to expand the number of goods it handled without increasing storage space. Additionally, the operation wanted to reduce picking errors and increase efficiencies without adding stress and strain to its operators. By installing 15 Modula vertical lift modules (VLMs), Conad Nord Ovest was able to meet all of these requirements while making the work environment more pleasant for its operators.

THE ISSUE

Storing more in less space while increasing operational efficiency

Conad is a leading Italian retail chain of supermarkets, and Conad Nord Ovest is one of its member cooperatives, serving northwest Italy and Sardinia. The organization wanted to accommodate growth without adding more space to its warehouse, which had a traditional shelving system. In addition, Conad Nord Ovest wanted to increase its overall productivity and reduce picking errors while easing the strain on its operators. It also sought a way to integrate its overall management of operations with its existing system.

THE SOLUTION

Installing Modula VLMs and complementary software solutions

Conad purchased 15 Modula Lift ML50D models, each of them 36 '5`` (11.1 m) in height. With these in place, the cooperative could store 35% of the products housed in the warehouse in just 5% of its space.

Conad Nord Ovest handles over 4,000 packages a day in its warehouse, distributing them to 50 grocery stores. The head of logistics, Roberto Pau, says as a result of adding the Modula units, the warehouse has reduced errors while boosting productivity. “The picking of goods is now simple, efficient and without errors, and the management of the flows is connected to the WMS vertical system,” Pau says.

Those who now run the VLMs to process goods are pleased as well because of the reduction in physical strain, says operator Claudio Argiolas. “This reduction in physical effort facilitates the greater degree of attention the system actually requires from personnel to operate at its maximum efficiency,” he says. And the operators are happy that the new machines don’t mean the elimination of operator jobs. “These solutions have surely been designed to improve the work of humans but cannot be used without their presence,” Argiolas says.



KEY BENEFITS

- Over 35% of products stored in just 5% of warehouse space
- More than 4,000 packages sent to 50 stores daily, efficiently and accurately
- Reduced strain on warehouse operators and more pleasant work environment
- Easy integration with the rest of the organization's existing management software

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Number of Units	15
Model	ML50D
Bar type/quantity	Internal dual-delivery
Trays	From 60 to 80 trays per unit, 161.41 x 33.74" (4,100 x 857mm), holding up to 1,102 lbs (500 kg) each
VLM Height	36'5" (11,100mm)

SOFTWARE

- Modula WMS Premium
- Modula Driver

OPTIONS INCLUDED

- automatic door
- bay lighting
- alphanumeric LED bar
- badge reader
- sliding Copilot console



About the customer

Conad Nord Ovest is a member of the Conad cooperative of Italian supermarkets, one of the largest in the country. It distributes items to 50 affiliated grocery stores in northwest Italy and Sardinia.

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**.