

Pepsi-Cola of Central Virginia

Distributor builds mixed pallets at 1,500 cases per hour



Innopick high-speed sortation system

System Overview:

Pepsi-Cola of Central Virginia (Pepsi CVA) is a third-generation, family-owned business that manufactures and distributes roughly 4 million cases of Pepsi products annually to seven counties in Virginia.

As its number of SKUs and customer base grew, Pepsi CVA needed to improve operational efficiencies, increase order accuracy, and become Advanced Shipping Notice (ASN) compatible. To reach these goals and others, Pepsi CVA decided to automate its order fulfillment process.

Pepsi CVA decided to invest in automation for three main reasons:

1. Cost savings
2. Order accuracy
3. Reduce turnover

Keeping the company's goals in mind, Bastian Solutions created a system that included an automatic palletizer and stretch wrapper, mini-load ASRS, and Innopick™ sorting system.

The system software breaks orders into pallets as well as delegates how they will be built and sorted by the system.

For palletizing orders, the system uses three different techniques based on the SKU and quantity.

1. A clamp truck for handling layers of the same SKU
2. An automatic palletizer to build layers of the same package type but different SKUs
3. A manual top-off process for odd ball SKUs, items in which customers only need a limited quantity

Sorting is accomplished using two technologies. The first is the Innopick™ system, which handles the highest velocity SKUs, and the second is a mini-load ASRS, which handles slower moving SKUs.

The automated order fulfillment system has provided Pepsi CVA with a more structured work environment, a reduction in employee overtime, increased order accuracy, higher throughput rates, and reduced employee turnover.

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Business Objectives:

- Reduce labor costs and employee turnover
- Handle an increasing number of SKUs
- Combat increasing fuel costs
- Provide more accurate deliveries to customers
- Capability of building small format orders by store

Key Technologies:

- Innopick® sorting system (high velocity SKUs)
- NedPack Prorunner mk5
- Automated case flow module with 140 lanes
- TGW mini-load ASRS (lower velocity SKUs)
- T-Tek automated palletizer
- WulfTec stretch wrapper
- Human machine interface
- Panasonic camera system and DVR
- Mettler-Toledo weigh scale and height check
- Tygard Claw fork truck layer picking
- Zebra label printer

Results:

- System handles 400+ SKUs
- Throughput of 1,500-2,000 cases per hour
- Ability to produce mixed pallets
- Reduction of labor costs and employee turnover
- Pepsi CVA is now ASN compatible
- Greater accuracy with shorter order cycle times
- Calmer, more organized facility



Mini-load ASRS



Automatic Palletizer



Innopick System

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1. Innopick sorting system
2. NedPack Prorunner mk5 vertical lift
3. Automated case flow module (140 lanes)
4. TGW mini-load ASRS
5. Mettler-Toledo weigh scale

6. T-Tek automated palletizer
7. Manual top-off area
8. WulfTec stretch wrapper
9. Tygard Claw layer picker
10. Zebra label printer

“With Bastian, we’ve been able to come up with new ways of improving the system we had, and we have a very long-standing relationship that we hope to keep for a long time.”

Tony Howard
Distribution Manager



For more information, visit
bastiansolutions.com or call (800) 772-0464

