

European Award for Logistics Excellence 2009



SFS Unimarket wins the European Award for Logistics Excellence 2009 in Brussels. This prize acknowledges the company's pan-European operations strategy.

Brussels,

The excellent result of SFS unimarket in the ELA award competition is a demonstration that simplicity is often the key to solve major logistics concerns. TurnLog is a very useful and clever solution in supply chain with high probability of use on a large scale and high potential for industry standard. It is an excellent example of how to change logistic processes by using, in a creative and innovative way, the state-of-the-art technology. The application of the RFID technology allows the streamlining of processes, which leads to added value such as lower stocks, higher availability and reduced costs. The projects also “conquered” the Jurors because of its excellent applicability to a large part of the logistics market. There are, in facts, numberless opportunities in the world of logistics to apply this kind of solution, since the C-article-problematic in “omnipresent”. For all this reasons I am very pleased, as President of ELA, to award SFS unimarket with the European Award for Logistics Excellence.

About the company and the project:

The SFS brand stands for customer focus, innovation and quality. This brand is the guarantee that the four group companies - SFS intec, SFS unimarket, SFS Locher and SFS services - pursue their businesses in conformity with a common set of corporate principles. Their common goal is to generate customer benefits.

SFS unimarket is a leading supplier of fasteners, tools, architectural hardware and chemical/technical products in Switzerland and neighbouring countries for industrial customers, regional small businesses, the specialist trade, wholesalers and DIY centres.

SFS unimarket maintains close contact with customers through international procurement expertise, and innovative, market-oriented product ranges at 26 locations in Switzerland. SFS unimarket provides customised logistics services enabling customers to boost value added.

SFS unimarket AG wins the European Award for Logistics Excellence 2009

SFS unimarket's solution:

The “turnLOG®” project, the astonishingly simple logistics solution for C-category parts, based on RFID, is trailblazing in nature. High-volume commodity items call for considerable material management effort in stock-keeping for low product value. The customary solutions for optimising re-

ordering procedures use bar code scanners or weighing systems, but these are relatively complicated. "The "turnLOG®" solution is technically simple, user-friendly and provides good process control. It was developed by SFS unimarket and Intellion. Each Kanban box in a storage rack is equipped with an RFID sensor, called a "turnTAG". When the contents of the box are at the normal level the "turnTAG" points to the rear of the storage rack. The storage rack itself features a "magTURN" magnetic actuator system on the front in the shape of a strip which can easily be retrofitted.

If a Kanban box is turned around by an employee upon reaching the buffer stock level, the sensor is then positioned at the front of the storage rack and thus over the magnetic strip. This actuates an RFID ordering signal. The radio signal is received by the "turnLOG®" Controller. Incoming (repeat) orders are transmitted to SFS unimarket's IT system via Ethernet, WLAN or GSM/GPRS. The "turnLOG®" Control Suite software performs a plausibility check on the orders and monitors all system components. This increases order reliability and relieves personnel of order-related activities which add no value.

This solution is already in operation at Swiss industrial companies. "turnLOG®" impresses by its simplicity, mobility and flexibility, which are achieved through the use of RFID technology. In the process the technology disappears in the solution. Compared with conventional bar code and weighing systems it results in reduced costs while enhancing process control at the same time. This simple concept can also be of trailblazing significance for other industries.

Further information from:

SFS unimarket AG
Mr. Josef Zünd
Nefenstrasse 20
CH-9435 Heerbrugg
T +41 71 727 51 90
zue@sfsunimarket.biz
www.sfsunimarket.biz

The Mercedes-Benz Plant Untertürkheim received the 2nd price for its successful centralisation of its global outbound logistics activities based on economic and ecological objectives with the project "Sustainable Outbound Logistics for Worldwide Mobility".

The plant has centralised its global outbound logistics activities during the last years at Stuttgart's inner harbour. The Mercedes-Benz Central Shipping Department replaces the shipping areas of each of the seven sub-plants in the Neckar valley. Since its completion in December 2007, axles, transmissions and engines have been leaving the plant via the new site to destinations all over the world. The decision leading to the centralisation of global outbound logistics was based on economic, ecological and socio-economical objectives.

The new location close to the transshipment terminals of SCT (Stuttgart Container Terminal GmbH) enables the efficient use of multimodal transportation. Thus, after the implementation of the Mercedes-Benz Central Shipping Department, the share of alternative transport carriers (inland waterways and rail) rose to 75 percent. The centralisation also resulted in various synergies. In comparison to the previous situation the same amount of powertrain units can now be handled with fewer forklift trucks, reduced storage capacity and less transportation. This has led to annual savings of €7.5 million, equivalent to a cost decrease of over 30 percent.

Sustainable outbound logistics

Due to a trimodal transport concept (rail, inland waterways, road) the number of long-haul trips by road to the ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp has been reduced in 2008 by 5,000 trips, which is equivalent to a reduction of approximately 5,000 tons of CO2 emissions.

Further information from:

Alice Kirr

+49 (0)711 17 91034

Alice-Monika.kirr@daimler.com

MANN+HUMMEL Iberica received the 3rd price with their project “The Success of Planned Flexibility” on the construction and relocation of their Zaragoza plant.

Further information from:

Guillermo Garcia

+ 34 (0)976 287325

guillermo.garcia@mann-hummel.com

About European Logistics Association:

The European Award for Logistics Excellence presented by the European Logistics Association (ELA) has become one of the most prestigious and important European logistics awards. The award winner is the company demonstrating outstanding achievement in logistics and supply chain management.

The Logistics Excellence Award is much sought after by companies throughout Europe. Its recognition of outstanding performance is highly valued by both previous winners and would-be winners alike. The award also provides companies with the opportunity to present their award-worthy concepts on a European stage. In addition, the winning company is entitled to use a symbol logo indicating that they have won the award.

ELA is a federation of 30 national organisations covering almost every country in Central and Western Europe and has regular contact to over 50.000 senior logisticians. The mission of ELA is to act as a network and an

open forum for all individuals or companies involved with logistics in Europe and to serve commerce and industry.

To this end, ELA develops ideas and generates stimuli for cross-sector, future-oriented logistics concepts with the aim of underpinning the competitiveness of European companies.

Further information:

European Logistics Association

Avenue des Arts 19

B-1210 Brussels

T. +32 2 230 02 11

ela@elalog.org

www.elalog.org