



MPE
Quality, Reliability, Performance

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One of MPE's component stores prior to installation of automated carousel



New carousel after components neatly loaded



Using the keypad on the automated carousel



Operator accesses the required parts in a matter of seconds

MPE invests in automated carousel

As reported in Issue 15 of the Company Bulletin, during 2017 MPE again experienced significant growth, along with record-breaking export turnover, and across the last three years overall sales have risen by some 30%. Accordingly MPE has invested heavily in many areas of its business in Liverpool, in order to expand capacity to meet the growing demand for MPE products. In line with the company's continuous improvement strategy, the most recent areas to undergo major investment and expansion have been MPE's Stores and Despatch areas.

Whilst not always considered the most high-tech activities in MPE's business, the Stores and Despatch functions are crucial to meeting customers' needs around the world. Both operations have defined key performance indicators (KPIs), such as the percentage readiness of assemblies and on-time deliveries (OTD), all closely measured and actioned by MPE.

MPE's principal Stores and Despatch area covers some 150 m², and therefore space is not a constraint. Nevertheless, prior to the start of 2018, for legacy reasons MPE maintained several other Stores locations around its facility. This meant that efficiencies were possible by consolidation within processes such as the receiving of goods inward and kitting for assembly.

In Spring 2018 MPE embarked on a major project to maximise efficiencies and significantly increase its throughput capacity in this area.

Phase 1 of the project saw the rearrangement of Stores and Despatch to realise an efficient flow of goods inward, storage, kitting and despatch. That involved investment in new structures and office space, along with new roller shutter access. Phase 2 saw MPE bring all its Stores into a single location – with a major investment in a new, automated storage carousel.

This Electroclass Titan G60 carousel was installed at MPE at the beginning of July. It now enables the storage of some 140,000 components within a 20 m² footprint.

Previously, storage of the same components consumed a footprint some 20 times larger and across several disparate areas. The floorspace made available by the carousel now allows MPE to kit parts for orders four weeks in advance of assembly, whereas, before, parts could only be kitted for orders two weeks in advance of assembly. The automated retrieval of parts for kitting has also significantly reduced the time taken to kit the parts required to fulfil individual orders.

This new Stores and Despatch capability, with all locations and processes consolidated into a single area, sees MPE capable of fulfilling customer deliveries in the most efficient way for many years to come. This strategic advance has already realised benefits to the customer and been a contributory factor in the company increasing its on-time deliveries (OTD) by some 30% since the start of 2018.