

Summary

Kessler + Co focuses on its own Logistics Philosophy META supplies dynamic rack systems to Abtsgmünd

Arnsberg / Abtsgmünd, October 17th, 2006. Heavy mobile vehicles in the heavy duty sector mostly owe their planet axles and transfer cases the company Kessler + Co. Founded in 1950 as axle manufacturer, the company is today one of the leading producers of heavy-duty drive axles and transfer cases worldwide for special vehicles from 10 to 220 tons. The production of the company based in the Swabian Abtsgmünd is distributed to two plant areas with a total size of approx. 75,000 square meters. Flexible storage and the maximum usage of the existing space at the greatest possible production area are the basic requirements of the company towards the storage technique.

For the realisation of these requirements META, the storage specialist from Arnsberg, distinguished yet from the beginning. A close cooperation started which more and more proved of value during the past decades and stabilised.

More space with mobile rack systems

Logistically until 1996, the main factory was equipped with stationary META pallet rack systems. These needn't much space what Kessler + Co wanted to use for the urgent need in increasing production. At the same time the demand for storage space was increasing, in order to guarantee the smooth production and on the other side to balance the

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Press release



possible supply shortfall. Dynamic META rack systems were the answer to the shortage of space in the factory. "Due to the storage technique with the mobile systems, half of the storage space is only needed. Thus we have won a lot of space for the production", Andreas Maier, the Kessler Production Manager explains happily. The storage specialist successively replaced the stationary rack systems by the dynamic systems META MULTIBLOC®.

Each hall has warehouses with components at the edges for the corresponding assembly works. At Kessler + Co. approx. 40,000 components are stored in different quantities. Nearly 520 employees assemble directly in the warehouse and could revert to the necessary components at any time without any big logistic expense.

In 2002 the capacities on the site of the main factory in Abtsgmünd with approx. 50,000 square meters were fully used. The company switched to an additional factory space on the "Kocherwiesen". However, already three years later, all 13,000 square meters from the beginning were also fully used. Another extension and an intraplant reorganisation has become necessary. Still this year the gear assembly which was up to then located in the main factory was shifted to the "Kocherwiesen". At the same time another hall of 10,000 square meters was built which is equipped with a META MULTIBLOC® system. The three blocks of approx. 4200 pallet slots distribute on an area of 1,170 square meters. The META MULTIBLOC® system which was until then the biggest system at Kessler is 6.90 meters high with five levels. The admissible total weight is 252 tons per vehicle. Here mainly semi-finished goods are stored which are required for the assembly.

Cantilever rack system for finished part warehouse

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In the main factory a second finished part warehouse was installed at the same time with a dynamic META cantilever rack system. The system has four mobile vehicles and a total height of six meters with a length of 24 meters. Stationary racks flank the dynamic system. Here on six levels approx. 580 finished axles can be stored.

The long lasting cooperation between the storage system producer META and Kessler + Co. has proven its value also this year. "The project planning and design is very good at META. The intensive support and the accurate planning for the smooth operation speak for itself. There are many people who can produce racks, but META is a competent partner for storage systems in the planning stage and the realisation, who take their time already in the run-up.", describes Andreas Maier the long lasting cooperation with the rack producer from Arnsberg.

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