

PRESS RELEASE



Skynet increases parcel throughput capacity with Interroll crossbelt sorter

S.Antonino, Switzerland, July 9, 2019. L.A.C. Conveyors and Automation working closely with long standing partner Interroll have installed a full turnkey sortation system at a UK sorting facility of leading courier, Skynet Worldwide Express. The vertical crossbelt sorter at its core can achieve sorting rates of 4,000 parcels per hour.

Established in 1972, Skynet Worldwide Express has grown to become the globe's largest independently owned express courier network with over 1,000 locations in 209 countries and territories. The company, which delivers everything from postcards to grand pianos, has its UK headquarters at Hounslow, adjacent to London's Heathrow Airport. However, with a strong focus on providing the right solution through personal service, flexibility and attention to detail, the team at Hounslow found that its parcel capacity was under pressure.

The warehouse facility was originally built for storage only, but Skynet decided to install a new sorter system to keep up with increased customer demand. Here, the company turned to LAC Conveyors, an industry leading manufacturer of conveyor and automation systems, which in turn called upon the services and solutions of Interroll.

Primarily, the sorter was installed to deal with outbound parcels for customers in Europe and Asia, and therefore the accuracy of sort was the key differentiator. Effective space utilization was another demand set out by Skynet.

Saving space with modular crossbelt sorter design

L.A.C. reviewed three sorter types and recommended the proven capabilities of the Interroll vertical crossbelt sorter, the main feature of which is its distinctive space saving design thanks to a compact modular approach. "For example, a width of just 1.7m is sufficient to install a vertical sorter with 400 x 400mm crossbelt carriers. This configuration can also save valuable space if full containers are transported into the sorter, which is a unique offer in the marketplace" says Steve Nuttall, Sales Manager at LAC Conveyors.

4,000 parcels per hour

Due to the limited amount of space available in the new section of the warehouse, the system had to be condensed as much as possible, but still achieve the 4,000 parcels per hour requirement. As a result, the sorter's chutes have all been configured to discharge on one side only as this offers the optimum space utilization. Prior to the sorter, a belt conveyor with index marks has been installed by LAC to ensure initial parcel gapping. Parcels are then scanned, and the weight and volume of each item is collected.

"The Interroll team kept LAC and Skynet informed and involved at all stages of the enquiry, offering and explaining different options to ensure the right solution was provided," says Ian Gray, Sales Applications Manager at Interroll Ltd. "Installed in November 2018 in time for the peak Christmas season, the new sorter has ultimately increased throughput capacity with room for future business growth."

"Interroll and LAC have supplied a first-rate system and installation for us" says Lee Smith, London Operations Manager for Skynet. "The sorter, associated conveyors and scanning equipment have helped

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improve our workflow immensely and the ease at which the Interroll team coordinated the installation ensured this project was delivered on time.”



Caption: Vertical cross-belt sorters from Interroll excel when it comes to providing a high-throughput while saving space.

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About L.A.C. Conveyors and Automation

L.A.C. Conveyors and Automation has long history of designing, manufacturing, and installing innovative conveyor solutions to the UK's blue-chip industry base. The company has four distinct divisions serving the following industries: Manufacturing, Logistics, Food & Beverage and Robotics. The latter provides bespoke machinery and robotics into the core three divisions. L.A.C. Conveyors and Automation offers standard ranges of belt conveyors, roller conveyors, modular belt conveyors and pallet handling equipment that we tailor to make specific to each of the industry sectors that we service.

About Interroll

The Interroll Group is the leading global provider of material handling solutions. The company was founded in 1959 and has been listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange since 1997. Interroll provides system integrators and OEMs with a wide range of platform-based products and services in these categories: Rollers (conveyor rollers), Drives (motors and drives for conveyor systems), Conveyors & Sorters as well as Pallet & Carton Flow (flow storage systems). Interroll solutions are in operation in express and postal services, e-commerce, airports, the food and beverage industry, fashion, automotive sectors, and many other manufacturing industries. Among the company's end users are leading brands such as Amazon, Bosch, Coca-Cola, DHL, Nestlé, Procter & Gamble, Siemens, Walmart and Zalando. Headquartered in Switzerland, Interroll has a global network of 32 companies with turnover of around CHF 559.9 million and 2,300 employees (2018).