

Warehouse planning with Star Trek atmosphere
**Into virtual reality with the EPG
HOLODECK**

The times when warehouses had to be developed using static CAD models or even one-dimensional drawings are over: The Ehrhardt + Partner Group (EPG) has opened the first virtual reality (VR) CAVE logistics system (HOLODECK) especially for logistics planning and consulting. The heart of the system is an innovative meeting room where projection and modern software technology are used to create a virtual environment. This offers up to twelve people the option of, for example, taking a computer-simulated 360° tour of a virtual warehouse – all without using VR headsets. Logistics processes are perfectly visualized in the HOLODECK and become more accessible. The HOLODECK gives users a high level of planning and investment reliability for warehouse planning. Warehouse infrastructure and processes can be visualized and simulated realistically in the HOLODECK.

“With the HOLODECK, we reach a new development stage in logistics planning and consulting,” said Marco Ehrhardt, Managing Partner of the EPG, at the opening of the HOLODECK at the EPG headquarters in Boppard-Buchholz. “It allows us to provide a realistic visualization of the logistics processes already during the planning phase. Users communicate directly in the virtual reality and different planning scenarios can be experienced live in the HOLODECK.” A visualization software allows logistics planning in real time using a modular system. In practical application, this means: the CAD plan, construction plans or floor plans of a warehouse are projected onto the meeting table in the HOLODECK, while a 3D-modeled warehouse appears on the surrounding walls, element by element. This allows visitors to experience the warehouse in real time and to move inside it virtually. This is made possible by a five-side CAVE (Cave Automatic Virtual

Environment) with active stereo projection which visualizes the content. This creates an immersive, virtual environment in which various scenarios can be shown.

Application options beyond logistics

The possible applications of the HOLODECK are virtually unlimited. Warehouse planning no longer has to be based on statistical models. Instead, users are presented with a dynamic, interactive and immersive VR solution without using a VR headset. The multi-sensory interaction of sound and visual immersion in virtual environments conveys the impression of being at the center of the warehouse action. The three application areas of simulation, emulation and visualization of logistics processes, such as steering the material flow and visualizing automatic storage units, are additional application options of the HOLODECK. As logistics planning can be conducted interactively in the HOLODECK and flexible adaptations are possible, users benefit from a high level of planning and investment reliability. In addition to this, the technology is also ideal for customer presentations. The special visualization in the HOLODECK allows participants to view interactive 360° presentations and videos. The EPG is also planning to hire the HOLODECK to interested parties. "The application options in the area of VR are manifold – not only in logistics. We are pleased with the exchange of experiences with other companies to discuss possible scenarios together," says Dennis Kunz, Director Marketing of the EPG.

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Photo captions:

- Photo 1:** Up to twelve people can immerse themselves in virtual worlds in the EPG HOLODECK.
- Photo 2:** State-of-the-art visualization software offers real-time modular logistics planning.
- Photo 3:** Logistics planning can be conducted interactively in the unique five-side CAVE and flexible adaptations are possible. This lets users benefit from planning and investment reliability.

Ehrhardt + Partner Group

The Ehrhardt + Partner Group (EPG) is one of the world's leading logistics experts and offers a comprehensive solution for all industries in the form of the LFS software suite. LFS as a supply chain execution system is currently in successful use across five continents and allows all logistics processes to be managed and controlled across departments. The globally active E+P Group was founded in 1987 and now has more than 530 employees at 14 locations. More than 60,000 users all over the world use the LFS system for their supply chain management. The features offered by the LFS software suite include everything that is necessary for comprehensive logistics management: The LFS.wms warehouse management system for managing and controlling intralogistics, the LFS.mfc material flow calculator, the LFS.tms transport management solutions for efficient tour handling and planning and the LFS.iss international shipping system for processing shipping logistics. Radio data transmission solutions, warehouse planning and -consulting, private cloud and hosting services as well as warehouse seminars conducted at the LFS.academy round out the list of comprehensive solutions provided by the E+P Group. Together with in-depth consulting services for warehouse technology, extensive expert knowledge in the area of warehouse logistics and reliable technical support, this makes E+P a one-stop solution provider. At present, more than 1,000 customers across all industries can be found on our list of references.

Corporate contact

Dennis Kunz • Ehrhardt + Partner GmbH & Co. KG
Alte Römerstraße 3 • 56154 Boppard-Buchholz • Germany
Phone: +49 67 42-87 27 0 • Fax: +49 67 42-87 27 50
Email: presse@epg.com • Internet: www.epg.com

Press contact

Nils Heinen • additiv pr GmbH & Co. KG
Public relations for logistics, steel, industrial goods, and IT
Herzog-Adolf-Straße 3 • 56410 Montabaur • Germany
Phone: +49 26 02-95 09 91 3 • Fax: +49 26 02-95 09 91 7
Email: nih@additiv-pr.de • Internet: www.additiv-pr.de