

Study: Logistics 4.0 in the warehouse

Real willingness to invest, but unclear economic benefit

The outcome of a study by Ehrhardt + Partner Consulting (EPC) can be summarized in brief: Many companies have still not recognized the potential of Logistics 4.0. The survey of 200 logistics companies from all sectors highlights the tension that companies currently face. On the one hand, there is real willingness to invest in new technologies to drive forward networking in the warehouse. On the other hand, the concrete economic benefit for most is still unclear. How can companies take the first step towards Logistics 4.0? EPC presents potential solutions and provides an overview of future-proof applications in its new whitepaper.

Industry 4.0, the Internet of Things and networking were the current top issues that motivated EPC - the independent consultancy firm and subsidiary of the Ehrhardt + Partner Group (EPG) - to take a closer look at the status quo at logistics companies. "The aim of the study was to investigate the general understanding of Logistics 4.0 and thereby investigate current developments with reference to the degree of networking in warehouse logistics", says Marcel Wilhelms, Managing Director of Ehrhardt + Partner Consulting. "The result is clear. Many companies are in principle willing to invest in Logistics 4.0-capable technologies, but they are not investing because the apparent risks outweigh the opportunities. Opinions are also divided when it comes to what Logistics 4.0 actually means. This creates uncertainty about what systems make the most economic sense and deliver the maximum benefit. Here is where we need to start and highlight potential solutions that are ready for the future."

Companies recognize the need for networking

Another finding of the study was that a degree of understanding of Logistics 4.0 is associated with existing networking in a given company. Companies may, for example, have suitable IT infrastructure, which is an essential basis for implementing other systems. "The majority of respondents are generally willing to adopt new solutions and have recognized the need to act now to stay connected to the market," says Marcel Wilhelms. "This is the first step towards full networking of the supply chain. We need to continue to exploit the potential and to generate a clear understanding in order to establish Logistics 4.0 structures."

Based on the results of the study, EPC in its most recent whitepaper shows how Logistics 4.0 can be implemented successfully in companies and what technologies are the right choice for the future in this context. You can download the whitepaper at: www.epg.com/de/logistik-know-how/whitepaper/.

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Photos: The warehouse of the future in the context of Logistics 4.0

Ehrhardt + Partner Consulting

Ehrhardt + Partner Consulting (EPC) provides independent logistics consulting for the supply chain. As a neutral partner founded in 2005, the subsidiary of the Ehrhardt + Partner Group accompanies the planning and implementation of comprehensive intralogistics and supply chain projects, including location analysis and the conceptual design of complex logistics systems. The portfolio of services is rounded out by expert warehouse consulting, comprehensive expert knowledge of warehouse logistics, and reliable technical support. EPC works out sustainable, future-proof solutions from a single source using its know-how from numerous logistics projects. In addition to consulting and planning services, the Ehrhardt + Partner Group offers a variety of additional products and services in the area of warehouse logistics and supply chain management.

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 the entirety of logistics processes to be managed and controlled across all business units. E+P, the global group, was founded in 1987 and now employs upwards of 500 staff at 14 locations. More than 60,000 users the world over use the LFS system for their supply chain management. The features offered by the LFS software suite include everything you might need for comprehensive logistics management: the LFS.wms warehouse management system to manage and control your intralogistics; the LFS.mfc material flow calculator; the LFS.tms transportation management solution for efficient tour handling and planning; and the LFS.iss international shipping system to handle shipping logistics. Radio data transmission solutions, warehouse planning and consulting, private cloud and hosting services, and 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: E+P is your one-stop solution provider. At present, more than 1,000 customers across all industries can be found on our list of references.

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