

Predictive Maintenance with the Ehrhardt + Partner Group

Early detection of malfunctions in automated warehouse technology

Failures and malfunctions in automated warehouse technology mean expensive downtimes or delays, which often stop deliveries of customer orders or damage the company's image. The Ehrhardt + Partner Group (EPG) has developed Predictive Maintenance as a new smart service to detect changes and abnormal behavior in automation technology early on and plan maintenance predictively. This technical approach to detect malfunctions early on increases the availability of the warehouse technology – which is a competitive advantage in the highly competitive logistics market.

Predictive Maintenance is based on extensive analyses of big data and a large number of algorithms. Networked sensors constantly monitor machine and measurement data (e.g. temperature, electrical resistance and vibrations) and collect process data that influences the behavior of the machines. The existing historical data is modeled to provide a solid basis for specific analyses and evaluations of current data. Predictive Maintenance can predict the probability that a malfunction will occur, so that system maintenance can be initiated proactively before actual failures occur.

Getting to the bottom of the causes of error

EPG's Predictive Maintenance solution has been designed specifically for use in the logistics industry and even goes one step further. Logistics companies using the LFS.wms warehouse management system can check whether unusual sensor values correlate with the order data from LFS.wms. This means, for example, that conclusions can be drawn about the cause of raised temperatures. Is the increase due to heavy load on the system or is there a technical impairment that implies an acute need for maintenance? EPG's smart service provides specific answers to these types of questions.

Predictive Maintenance as a cost-saving problem solver

Predictive Maintenance is used in a wide range of applications. The purchase pays for itself very soon, particularly in areas of heavy investment with a high degree of automation. These include shuttle vehicles, lifts or storage and retrieval systems in automated small parts and high-bay warehouses, as well as industrial trucks and conveyor technology.

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Photo captions

Photo 1: Predictive Maintenance is already being tested – at the warehouse of Ehrhardt + BOMAG Logistics GmbH (EBL) in Boppard.

Photo 2: The dashboard of EPG's Predictive Maintenance solution helps to resolve malfunctions in automated warehouse technology.

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 500 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 transportation 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.

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