



GLS

MEETING DELIVERY EXPECTATIONS

CASE STUDY: GLS

Meeting delivery expectations through advanced sorting

To meet growing customer expectations, GLS has increased their sorting capacity from 5.000 to 12.000 trays per hour (in standard operation) with a new Equinox MHE automatic sorter for envelopes and small parcels.

GLS has been offering express transport services since 1987. The company established itself with a focus on providing full connectivity and a strong emphasis on innovation. These commitments have strengthened their competitive advantage in achieving a high level of flexibility and quality service to the customers. GLS continues to innovate to meet the rapidly evolving needs of its customers. Technology continues to open new delivery opportunities and in doing so is raising customer expectations around delivery. Nowadays, customers have a wide range of delivery options. With next-day delivery becoming the standard and same-day delivery on the rise, the pressure on delivery time slots is increasing rapidly.

The XWOS consists of:

- 1 Inclining paddlebelt
- 2 Dimensioning, scanning & weighing system
- 3 Sorter infeed system
- 4 Sorter system

Increasing capacity in shorter time windows

Shorter delivery expectations are creating greater pressure on supply chain systems to achieve new levels of performance in terms of speed, volume, flexibility and accuracy. This manifests itself as a continually growing number of items that need to be sorted within shorter time windows. To cope with these challenges, GLS decided it was time to replace their sorting machine to increase the accuracy and efficiency of their sorting process and turned to Equinox MHE for advice.

The parcel sorter is currently being installed in Madrid, Spain. It sorts parcels up to 2 kg into 330 destinations. As soon as a bag is detected full it will be loaded in the vans for delivery. The characteristic rectangular shape, which differs from

the standard oval shape, enables the maximum number of stations in the available area of 28 x 36 meter. The conveyor belts are placed at a height of 3 meters to allow easy access to the center through the 2.1 meter high passages in the corners.

With 12.000 trays per hour (in standard operation), the split tray sorter enables GLS to handle the increasing number of parcels and ensure an accurate and efficient sorting process. The double tray type with backwards tilting trays was a perfect fit to meet their customer's requirements. These trays have a robust, yet flexible design which enables them to manage unexpected obstructions and optimize production runtime.



1. Inclining paddlebelt

Bags are emptied into the buffer at the bottom of the paddlebelt. From there on they are taken up to the induction station by the paddlebelt.



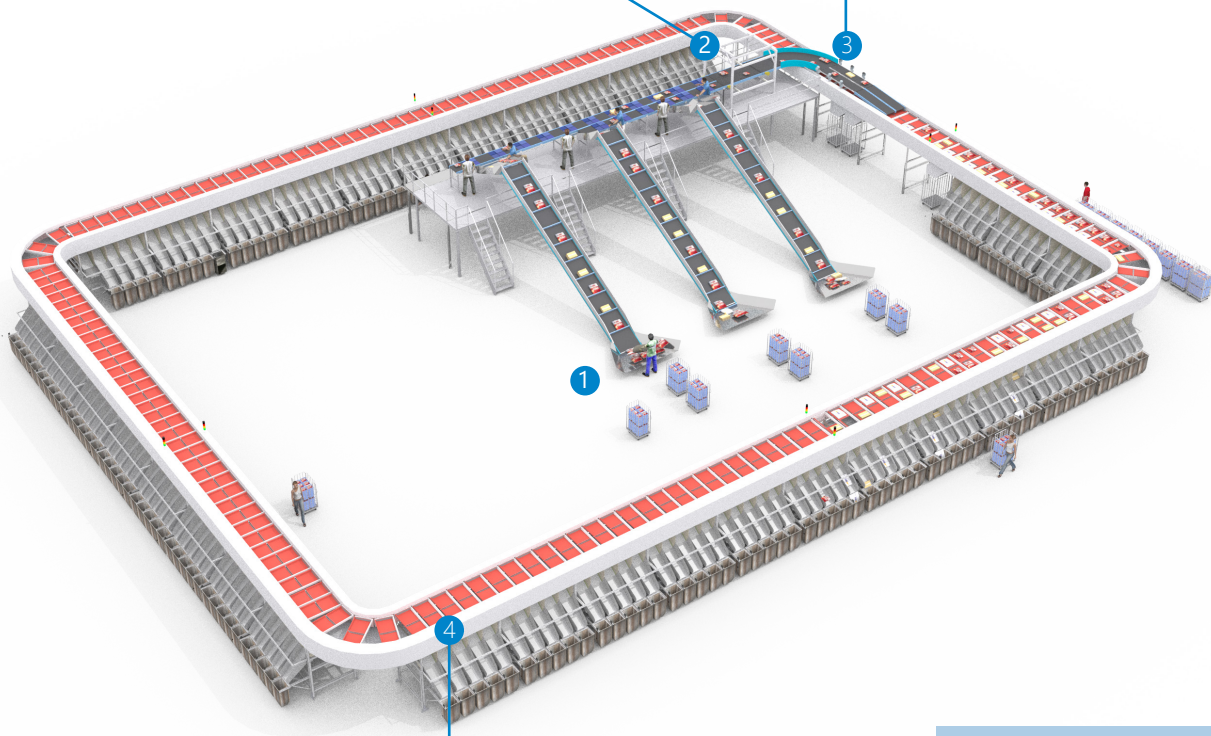
2. Scanning system

This integrated scanning system reduces human error by employing accurate and fail-safe scanning. After the pocket belts the barcodes will be scanned on 2 sides top and bottom. This bottom side will be done with a camera and a mirror looking through the gap between the belts. The top is done directly (without a mirror).



3. Sorter infeed system

The automatic infeed system ensures the parcels are correctly induced in the sorter system. By automating this task, the amount of errors can be drastically reduced.



4. Sorter system

The system shall be able to produce an operational sorted parcel throughput of 12.000 parcels per hour.

Specifications

Product dimensions


Min. 220 x 110 x 1 H mm
Max. 440 x 350 x 150 H mm

Product weight

Min. 0.01 kg
Max. 2 kg

Capacity per hour

6.000 - 12.000 / induction zone



"With this new sorting solution from Equinox MHE, we are able to better meet the needs of our customers. Which, in the end, is our number one priority."

- Miguel Iwasaki, Industrial Engineering Manager, GLS

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