

PRESS RELEASE

Effidence will provide a fleet of robotic stackers to assist Rhenus's order pickers

- **Strengthening the collaboration between Effidence and Rhenus Logistics**
- **Making the Effidence - Manitou Group partnership a reality**
- **Fleet of 21 robotic stackers working in swarms**

Romagnat, France, November 13th, 2020 - This new season is marked by the realization of a joint project between Rhenus, one of the world's leading logistics services providers, and Effidence, a pioneer and leader in collaborative and autonomous robotics.

For several years, Rhenus has been using EffiBOT robots on a daily basis in Europe to optimize order preparation in e-Commerce. Some time ago, Rhenus' French distribution center in Saint-Quentin Fallavier (Isère) was looking for similar robotic solutions for its order preparation process on pallets and not bins. Naturally, the Methods and Innovation France teams approached Effidence to design a new AGV/AMR ¹. Already convinced by the Effidence's robotic solutions, they have once again used their expertise to extend their range to stackers for order preparation.

To carry out this project, the two companies started looking for a manufacturer of warehousing equipment, capable of offering reliable handling stackers on which it would be possible to make customized modifications. Manitou Group had all the required expertise within its warehousing subsidiary LMH Solutions to offer special solutions. Thanks to Rhenus, the collaboration between Effidence and Manitou Group resulted in the signing of a strategic business partnership across Europe. Together, Effidence and Manitou Group were able to design and manufacture an autonomous and collaborative robotic stacker to assist order pickers. After participating in the realization and implementation of this prototype, many changes were made to make it more ergonomic and optimize productivity. The result is conclusive because today, Rhenus has a stacker that is perfectly adapted to its environment, intelligent and autonomous.

Cédric Tessier, President of Effidence, explains: *"We have built a solution of mobile stacker robots that autonomously move towards the item to be picked according to the orders issued by Rhenus' Warehouse Management System (WMS). The pickers, stationary in the aisles, take the goods and place them on the pallets. A server smartly distributes this fleet of stackers to ensure that the machines circulate smooth and thus minimize the waiting time for the pickers. By significantly reducing the walking distance of pickers, productivity is clearly improved. Finally, unlike the traditional approach where an order is carried out entirely by a picker, the swarm of robots brings greater scalability thanks to the parallelization of orders (one order per robot). Logistics is evolving, we are evolving with it! »*

¹ AGM/AMR: Automated Guided Vehicles / Autonomous Mobile Robots

About Rhenus

The Rhenus Group is one of the world's leading logistics service providers with an annual turnover of 5.5 billion euros. Rhenus employs 33,000 people at 750 locations. To support companies in most economic sectors in the management of their Supply Chain, the Rhenus Group offers solutions including multimodal transport, warehousing, customs clearance, and innovative value-added services.

About Effidence

Effidence provides innovative robotic solutions to optimize intralogistics flows and order picking applications for industry or logistic players. Founded in 2009 by Cédric TESSIER, Effidence offers agile and high-performance robotic solutions that adapt to the needs of its customers and their growth: collaborative robots "follow-me" and autonomous to work with or close to humans; standalone robots or cooperating in swarm-me fleet type "swarm-me".

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