Experts in Warehouse and
Supply Chain Operation Optimisation

25+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

PRINCIPAL
Logistics Technologies
By Principal Systems Ltd

In-DEX WMS Warehouse Management System Enables £1m in Annual Business Benefits at Wm Morrison Supermarkets

Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc is the UK's second largest fresh food manufacturer. Headquartered in Bradford, England, the company produces most of its own food - including freshly baked bread, seafood, fresh produce, chilled foods and meat products - in its 16 manufacturing sites. The company is the UK's fourth largest supermarket chain and serves good quality fresh food and groceries to over 11 million UK customers in more than 500 stores and via its online home delivery service.

THE BUSINESS

- The UK's second largest fresh food manufacturer producing chilled foods and meat products in 16 manufacturing sites

- 105,000 sq. ft meat processing plant in Winsford, Cheshire

- The UK's fourth largest supermarket chain serving over 11m UK customers in almost 500 stores & online

- 111,000 staff providing customers with good quality fresh food

THE SITUATION

Morrisons had acquired a 105,000 sq. ft. meat processing facility in Winsford, Cheshire. The site, a centralised fresh pork and lamb retail packing plant, saw significant expansion and re-investment adding beef products to its capabilities. Morrisons buys livestock from the farm and processes them at its abattoirs in Colne, Spalding and Turriff, Aberdeenshire.

Meat from the abattoirs is shipped to its fresh meat packing facility. The Winsford location manufactures a range of retail packed products from burgers, meatballs, and mince to steaks and chops. This is a high volume operation running 24x7.

Production at Winsford is continuous and high volume, and requires complete transparency and traceability with each tray of meat being managed as serial tracked, and variable weighted, items. As a consequence, at very short notice, Morrisons needed an alternate chilled warehouse facility to deal with the increase in volumes on the run up to Christmas. While finding a facility was successful, it was impossible to migrate its existing systems to the new warehouse with a finished goods picking facility within the required timeframes. The chosen 3PL Warehouse was already using In-DEX WMS. Due to the tight timescales there was no alternative but to use In-DEX WMS. The Principal Logistics Technologies team pulled out all the stops to get In-DEX WMS configured and implemented

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RESULTS SUMMARY

- Service levels instantly improved with increased picking accuracy, finished goods rotation & reduced load times

- Efficiencies delivered £1m in annual business benefits

- Picking accuracy increased to 99% across 44,000 cases per day

- System seamlessly integrated with Morrison's Oracle & other in-house *end of line* production systems

**Alan Staines.
Head of Technology,
Manufacturing
Systems,
Wm Morrison plc**

THE SOLUTION

Principal Logistics Technologies' functionally rich In-DEX WMS Warehouse Management System enabled Morrisons remote warehouse picking operation to operate efficiently, increasing picking accuracy and reducing load times which combined to immediately improve service levels to their RDC's. A comprehensive business review and requirements gathering exercise was undertaken after which Morrisons decided that a Warehouse Management System was required for its Winsford warehouse to operate more effectively. Following a RFP software market review, Principal Logistics Technologies' In-DEX WMS was selected.

"Before In-DEX WMS was deployed, picking accuracy and finished goods rotation were an issue in our fast paced warehouse. The accuracy rates are now constantly in excess of 99% picking over 40,000 cases per day and when you're dealing at case level this is best in class. The Principal team pulled out all the stops to get In-DEX WMS configured and implemented inside six weeks, with an extremely smooth implementation."

**Alan Staines. Head of Technology,
Manufacturing Systems, Wm Morrison plc**

Morrisons now has a Warehouse Management System fully integrated to Oracle and In-DEX WMS enabled improved workflow efficiency, picking accuracy and efficiency delivering benefits of over £1 million per annum. Live KPI dashboards on the warehouse floor and despatch office ensured everyone is aware of performance in real-time ensuring Morrisons always has full shelves in-store and satisfied customers.

After the system was deployed on a permanent basis, full integration with Oracle and other in-house end-of-line production systems was required. Resilience needed to be demonstrated and proven addressing Morrisons' stringent levels. But, to be honest, at this stage the operation and operatives were known to all, users were familiar with the application and while we couldn't stop production, the second cutover back to the Winsford factory went smoothly and this go-live was another huge success."

Joe O'Shea, Director, Principal Logistics Technologies

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ABOUT PRINCIPAL LOGISTICS TECHNOLOGIES

Principal Logistics Technologies, part of Principal Systems Ltd., is the industry leader in innovative Warehouse Management & Supply Chain operation optimisation solutions. We bring over 25 years experience, with considerable technical know how gained from applying our globally patented In-DEX WMS Warehouse Management System to hundreds of successful upgrade and optimisation installations.

Our focus is on reducing OpEx enabling increased revenue for our clients. Operations range from single-site family run businesses with standalone Warehouse Management Systems to multinationals with complex multisite, end-to-end, supply chain operations. Our business sector knowledge spans 3PL, Bulk Commodities, Cold Storage, Chemicals, Chill Picking and Cross Docking, Distribution and Manufacturing operations, and more.