

ITECA SPA

Warehouse Automation for the Food Machinery Industry: Efficiency, Sustainability and Digitalization with Vertimag®

How can industrial logistics become more efficient, sustainable and digital while prioritizing employee health and safety?

ITECA S.p.A., is specialized in the design and manufacture of industrial bakery production equipment, selected Ferretto® to transform its material handling and storage operations with two Vertimag® vertical lift modules (VLMs) integrated with its enterprise management system. The project combines space optimization, process automation and workplace ergonomics to support production growth while improving working conditions. Founded in 1994 in Palù, near Verona, Italy, ITECA designs and manufactures automatic and semi-automatic production lines for industrial bakeries, serving customers in Italy and international markets. As the company expanded, the volume of materials requiring storage doubled, making it necessary to rethink warehouse organization. ITECA decided to move from conventional horizontal storage to an automated vertical storage system to maximize available height, centralize component storage and accelerate picking operations. Valentina Marchesini, from ITECA S.p.A.'s Sales Department, explains how vertical warehouse automation has improved internal logistics efficiency while creating new opportunities for digitalization and sustainability, with employee health and workplace safety remaining key priorities. WATCH THE VIDEO CASE STUDY

CUSTOMER
ITECA Spa

WHERE
Palù, VR - Italia

SOLUTIONS
Warehouse Management System
Vertical lift module Vertimag



Two Vertimag® Vertical Lift Modules to Maximize Vertical Storage Space

To accommodate increasing material volumes without expanding its warehouse footprint, ITECA replaced its predominantly horizontal storage system with an automated vertical storage solution. The project involved the installation of two Vertimag® 103 XL vertical lift modules, each standing 10.26 meters high, designed to maximize available vertical space and centralize component management. Together, the two systems provide 120 trays, offering approximately 525 m^2 of storage surface within a combined footprint of just 34.8 m^2. Each VLM features 60 trays with a load capacity of up to 990 kg per tray and an Ergo-Tech® internal picking station, designed to facilitate loading and unloading while improving workstation ergonomics. Thanks to the goods-to-person principle, operators no longer need to walk through the warehouse to retrieve components. Instead, the automated storage system delivers the required trays directly to the picking station. This transformation has enabled ITECA to optimize operating times, reduce unnecessary operator movement and improve workplace health and safety, making everyday material handling more efficient.

From Conventional Storage to Digital Component Management: Vertimag® Integrated with ERP

ITECA's challenge extended beyond storage capacity. The company also needed to manage increasing volumes of components and accelerate material flows supporting the production of food processing machinery. Although ITECA already had an established logistics organization, introducing vertical lift modules represented a significant step forward in the way warehouse operations were managed. To improve material visibility and control, both Vertimag® systems were connected to the company's enterprise management environment, allowing operators to interact with the automated storage units through a software communication interface. The system enables operators to monitor warehouse status, automatically retrieve trays and coordinate picking activities based on picking lists generated directly by ITECA's ERP system. The configuration also includes laser pointers and alphanumeric LED displays, which help operators identify the correct items during picking and replenishment. By integrating vertical automation with the enterprise management system, ITECA can improve picking speed and accuracy, centralize material control and reduce manual handling activities. The result is a more structured, digitalized internal logistics process capable of supporting the company's continued production growth.



Objectives

- Optimize storage capacity without expanding the warehouse footprint.
- Manage increasing volumes of production materials and components.
- Centralize warehouse operations.
- Automate and accelerate picking and sorting processes.
- Integrate automated storage with the company's ERP system.
- Reduce operating times and costs.
- Improve operator ergonomics, health and workplace safety.

Solution

- 2 Vertimag® 103 XL vertical lift modules (VLMs).
- 120 trays with load capacities of up to 990 kg each.
- Ergo-Tech® internal picking stations.
- Goods-to-person material handling system.
- Integration with the company's ERP system.
- EJLOG WMS Basic software module.
- Alphanumeric LED displays and laser pointers for guided picking.
- Automatic tray retrieval and digital management of warehouse operations.

Value added

- Approximately 525 m^2 of storage surface within a 34.8 m^2 footprint.
- Vertical storage utilization up to 10.26 meters.
- Centralized component storage and management.
- Reduced operator travel.
- Faster and more accurate picking operations.
- Reduced operating costs, as reported by the customer.
- Improved workplace ergonomics and safety.
- Integration between warehouse automation and digital business processes.
- A technological foundation for future logistics developments.

WAREHOUSE IN NUMBERS

Installed systems	2 Vertimag® 103XL990-BIG H10261
Footprint per unit	17.40 m^2
Storage surface per unit	262.65 m^2
Useful storage volume	115.56 m^3