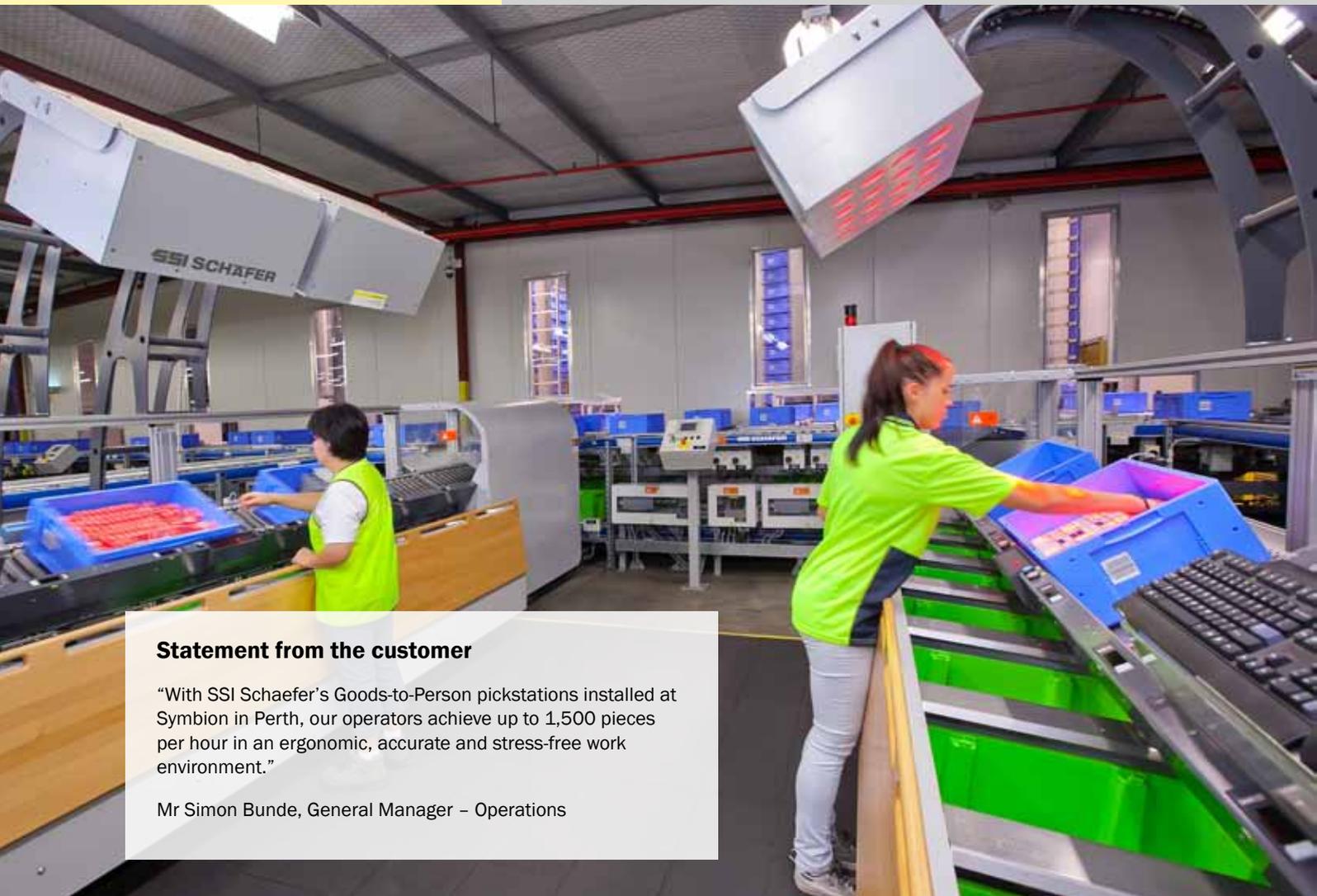




Case Study, Symbion, Australia

GOODS-TO-PERSON SOLUTION TO IMPROVE PICKING EFFICIENCY



Statement from the customer

“With SSI Schaefer’s Goods-to-Person pickstations installed at Symbion in Perth, our operators achieve up to 1,500 pieces per hour in an ergonomic, accurate and stress-free work environment.”

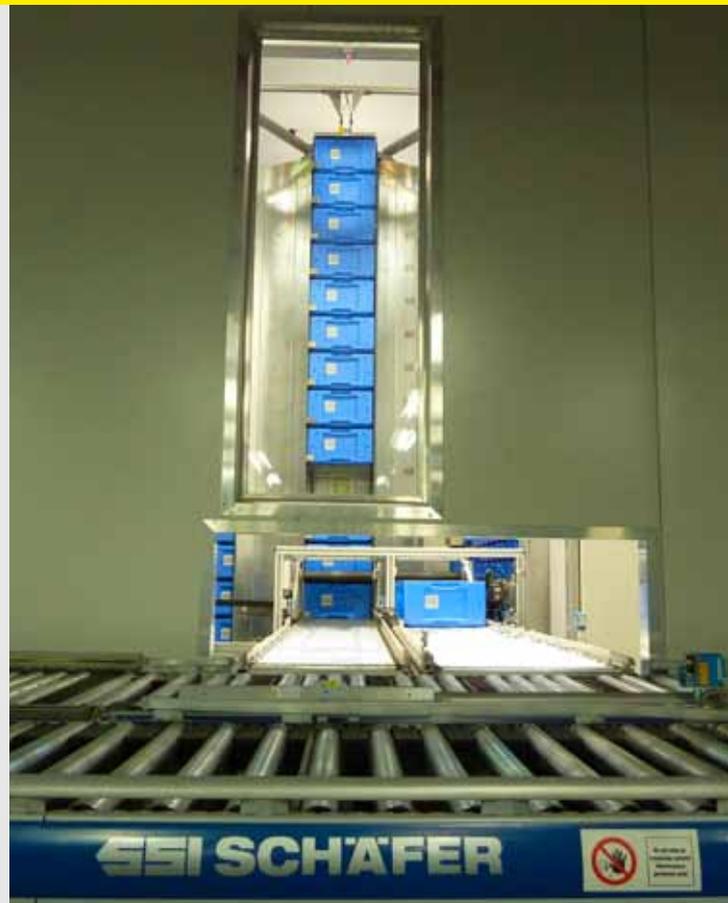
Mr Simon Bunde, General Manager – Operations

Project objectives

- ▶ Efficient storage footprint for slow-moving items
- ▶ Improvement in picking efficiency for slow-moving items
- ▶ Fast order response times

Scope of supply and services

- ▶ 6 Schaefer Automatic Storage and Retrieval Carousels
- ▶ 2 high efficiency Goods-to-Person Pick Stations
- ▶ Schaefer Order Fulfilment Software
- ▶ Plastic storage tubs
- ▶ Schaefer FT+ Conveyor System



Symbion

Symbion is a leading pharmaceutical wholesaler in Australia that distributes a wide range of prescription and “Over the Counter” products to pharmacies and hospitals. The company operates a number of Distribution Centres around Australia and is progressively implementing automation to reduce operating costs, improve fulfilment quality and shorten order response times.

Project

In 2010, Symbion made the decision to implement a “Goods to Person” picking system from SSI Schaefer at its Distribution Centre in Perth. The system, consisting of six SCS dynamic storage and retrieval carousels serving two high productivity Pick-to-Tote workstations, effectively deals with the storage and picking of up to 6,000 slow moving SKUs in a compact area of approximately 1,000 square metres.

Incoming goods are decanted into storage tubs which are automatically stored directly into the SCS carousels. Where products are very small and slow moving, multiple SKUs can be stored in one tub. A percentage of storage tubs are fitted with compartments to accommodate this.

As orders are released into the system for picking, order totes are routed via conveyor to the two “Goods-to-Person” pickstations which each handle seven orders at a time. The SKUs required to fulfil the orders are automatically retrieved from the carousels and delivered to the pickstations as required. A screen at the station shows the operator the quantity to pick from the SKU tub and pick displays above the order totes indicate which orders are to receive items and how many. Light curtains above the order totes are used to ensure items are placed in the correct totes and optionally to automatically acknowledge the pick. Where there are multiple SKUs stored in a tub, an overhead light array highlights the compartment out of which the operator must pick.

Because the goods are brought to the operator at the pickstation, no walking is required and operators can pick up to 1,500 pieces per hour. The entire Goods-to-Person picking system is controlled by SSI Schaefer’s standard order fulfilment software which receives order information from Symbion’s host and manages the storage and routing of the SKU tubs as well as the conveying and fulfilment of the order totes through the system. The software also provides a powerful user interface including helpful reports and statistics.





In a nutshell

The implementation of SSI Schaefer's "Goods to Person" picking system has effectively helped Symbion improve their storage and picking efficiency. The system allow operators to pick up to 1,500 pieces per hour in an ergonomic environment. SSI Schaefer's standard order fulfilment software works in hand with Symbion's host to manage the storage, routing, conveying and fulfilment of the order totes through the system.

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