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AutoStore: Empowered by FORTNA



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The shift to eCommerce has arrived three to five years ahead of schedule. This has forced supply chain leaders to re-examine their approach to fulfillment to eliminate waste and risk and achieve greater efficiencies and cost savings. The labor availability challenges that previously hamstrung operations have turned to challenges of risk and higher costs to ensure worker health and business continuity. Investments in automation are key to ensuring the business remains flexible in the face of disruption.

FORTNA's strategic approach empowers clients to take advantage of opportunities by viewing their operations holistically. We design solutions that achieve business results using best-fit technologies, without bias toward a solution or provider. Our solutions are fully supported by a justifiable business case for investment. FortnaWES[™] software enables real-time optimization designed to enable maximum flexibility for the business.

AutoStore is often selected by clients as part of a total solution that quickly drives value with unparalleled speed, accuracy, cube utilization and safe physical distancing for workers.



Why AutoStore?

FORTNA partners with AutoStore because it is one of the leading roaming shuttle systems in the world. With 450 installations in 6 countries, AutoStore is the fastest, densest order fulfillment system on the market. The technology has proven the ultimate order-fulfillment solution for 24 years. It combines the highest storage density of any goods-to-person solution, with a high throughput technology, making it a perfect fit for order fulfillment from large warehouses to small urban stores and backrooms.

The flexible, modular design allows the solution to be configured like building blocks in any shape, form or height for the unique needs and space constraints of the facility.

Benefits of AutoStore



With an AutoStore solution empowered by FORTNA you can:

- Maximize cube utilization in odd-shaped and low ceiling environments.
- Reduce storage footprint by up to 75% when compared to traditional aisle and shelf storage space.
- Easily expand the system and scale on pace with the growth of the business, without interrupting operations.
- Enable business continuity by reducing labor requirements and allowing workers to maintain safe physical distancing.
- Achieve unparalleled speed, accuracy, and up-time for your operation.
- Increase sustainability/reduce carbon footprint with reduced energy consumption.

The implementation process is fast too, enabling the shortest time from concept to solution so results are achieved quickly.

Combined with intelligent and powerful FortnaWES[™] software, AutoStore systems are a great fit for eCommerce and omnichannel operations across a variety of industries. FORTNA can help with selection and implementation of the right technologies and provide 24/7 support for the total solution.

Why FORTNA?



FORTNA partnered to design and build one of the largest AutoStore deployments in the world. FORTNA's unique approach to design takes a holistic look across the entire operation (people, process, systems, and assets) and all the integration points and workstreams that must be harmonized for optimal business results.

Our global presence, experience and scale allow us to work with industry leaders across the globe to design and build flexible operations using best-fit technology from a wide array of suppliers, rather than being tied to a single solution or provider. All FORTNA solutions are supported by a strong business case for investment and FORTNA accountability for business results.

FORTNA's intelligent warehouse execution software (FortnaWES) dynamically optimizes throughput to enable the fastest, highest capacity deployment of AutoStore technology.

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CASE STUDY: FORTNA Improves Distribution Operations with AutoStore Solution



Transformation of a 3-shift, 7 days per week, round-the-clock operation, into an automated, highly efficient fulfillment engine to support eCommerce growth and enable new revenue streams for the business.

Results:

- Reduced labor by 55%
- Increased productivity by 109%
- Enabled 3 additional business units to be incorporated into existing footprint
- Flexibility to integrate new acquisitions into the operation quickly
- 40% additional volume processed in the same amount of space

An aggressive acquisition strategy coupled with organic growth enabled this large specialty retail client to become a leader in its industry, but also created challenges for the business. Over time, small inefficiencies added up to a lessthan-optimal operation for both its store and eCommerce fulfillment. They were running out of space and capacity to process orders.

The client called on FORTNA to help modernize the operation with great speed and agility before opportunities for future growth would be stifled. FORTNA helped design a new fulfillment engine that included an AutoStore solution, FORTNA Goods to Person (GTP) pick/pack stations and cross-belt sorter equipment all controlled by FortnaWES[™] software. The software enabled one of the fastest, highest throughput AutoStore solutions in the world. The dynamically optimized throughput of this innovative FORTNA design maximized capacity of the operation while creating CapEx cost savings for the client. Leveraging the high-density storage AutoStore provides also reduced picking travel in other parts of the operation, increasing overall productivity. Process changes enabled by FortnaWES[™] software allowed the operation to use a continuous flow, pull-based design that increased productivity with less labor.

The solution, which is being implemented in phases, gives the client the flexibility to integrate additional business units over time and make CapEx investments on pace with growth. When the final phase is complete, it will be one of the largest AutoStore solutions anywhere in the world.





FORTNA Can Help

FORTNA helps companies improve their distribution operations, build a business case for investment, and implement solutions that drive business results.

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About FORTNA

FORTNA partners with the world's leading brands to transform omnichannel and parcel distribution operations. Known world-wide for enabling companies to keep pace with digital disruption and growth objectives, we design and deliver solutions, powered by intelligent software, to optimize fast, accurate and cost-effective order fulfillment and last mile delivery. Our people, innovative approach and proprietary algorithms and tools ensure optimal operations design and material and information flow.

Contact us today at www.FORTNA.com

