

DHL Supply Chain Delivers Warehouse Robotics Excellence

Result

• **60%**

reduction in implementation
time for robotics

• **80%**

savings in training time for employees
on the deployed technology

Realizing the promise of robotics 60% faster

“As part of its Digital Transformation Strategy, DHL Supply Chain - market leader in contract logistics and part of Deutsche Post DHL Group - aims to implement robotics and other automation solutions across 2000 global sites. We partnered with Blue Yonder to solve a critical challenge: accelerate integration of robotics with existing warehouse management systems. In its first go-live, the Robotics Hub has already reduced implementation time by 60% - with anticipated time savings of 90% in future deployments.”

— Global Program Manager Robotics Platform, DHL Supply Chain

Challenges

- DHL Supply Chain is the world's leading third-party logistics company. Over 150,000 employees in 50 countries and territories deliver excellence in supply chain, warehousing, transportation and distribution activities for customers around the world.
- DHL's Accelerated Digitalization Initiative is aimed at rapidly establishing its technology leadership. A key goal is incorporating automation and robotics at more than 2000 sites, orchestrating this implementation from a global perspective.
- Building on a successful partnership of over 25 years, DHL turned to Blue Yonder for a solution that integrates a range of robotics with its existing Blue Yonder warehouse management system (WMS).

A cloud-based, “plug and play” solution that minimizes integration time

“The solution significantly reduces integration time and programming efforts to onboard new automation devices into warehouse facilities, while giving DHL customers more flexibility in selecting suitable robotics systems according to their individual business needs. The solution leverages Microsoft Azure and cloud platform services,

capitalizing on secure cloud computing at a global scale to deliver a unique level of speed and responsiveness.”

Greater visibility, for improved speed and responsiveness

“By leveraging a single, shared dashboard for robotics, DHL employees can immediately view warehouse progress, check the status of key tasks and feed real-time work-order updates back into their WMS. As a result, DHL can deliver greater logistics speed, responsiveness and resilience, all of which are essential in today’s volatile environment.”

Maximizing efficiency via artificial intelligence

“The next step is to enhance the Robotics Hub by leveraging machine learning and artificial intelligence. By doing this, all tasks in logistics can be orchestrated optimally between our associates and the robotics solution.”

Solution benefits

- Built on Microsoft Azure and cloud platform services, the Robotics Hub is a flexible, software-as-a-service (SaaS) solution that is fast and affordable to launch and maintain across a range of DHL Supply Chain sites.

- Instead of building point-by-point connections between the WMS and the targeted robotics solution, DHL Supply Chain can simply make use of the Robotics Hub, which provides a suite of robotics and automation together with different WMS solutions. Any new connectivity needed is quickly adapted to this out-of-the-box solution by means of standard application programming interfaces (APIs). A DHL Supply Chain 3D warehouse overview, Mercury, provides 360-degrees live insights into operations.
- In solving each customer’s unique challenges, DHL Supply Chain can choose the best available robotics or automation solution, without worrying about integration issues. The Robotics Hub is brand- and platform-agnostic, to easily accommodate any automation solution.

Blue Yonder’s expertise

“When DHL needed an advanced robotics integration tool leveraging existing and flexible warehouse management systems, Blue Yonder offered the right fit. Its warehouse management leadership means that DHL sites already rely on Blue Yonder software. And its leadership in other technologies, including advanced tasking in the cloud, makes Blue Yonder well positioned to contribute to our digital initiative. We are amazed at how quickly the Robotics Hub was launched and operational.”