

CODEWORKS, LLC

DELIVERING THE CAPABILITY TO WIN NEW BUSINESS

SUPPLY CHAIN

CASE STUDY

Codeworks Boosts Horsepower At Auto Parts Operation

Client

ODW Contract Services specializes in dedicated 3PL contract operations for a variety of businesses with a particular emphasis on the automotive industry. Operations run 24 hours a day, seven days a week with a staff of 300 delivering on time across four states.

The ODW Contract Services team fulfills 4,500+ part requests per day and up to 500 requests per hour, supplying 60% of all parts to a 1.5 million square foot manufacturing operation. Inventory turns 52 times a year.

Products

- Codeworks Warehouse and Distribution Logistics System (WDLS)
- T. L. Ashford labelling software
- Radio Frequency (RF) scanners
- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) interfaces to existing systems

Overview

With considerable experience in resolving logistics problems and capitalizing on opportunities, ODW Contract Services often begins a client engagement as a consultant. During the course of the project, the need for contract operations often arises, leading to a long-term relationship of integrated systems and services.

The Challenge

An ODW Contract Services' client needed help in adding a parts consolidation facility to their operation. The compact facility supplied a high-velocity manufacturing operation with 60% of their total parts, requisitioned either by production plan or replenishment scans. Any given part would have no more than seven to 10 days of inventory on hand, so inventory accuracy was of paramount importance.

Although the client was using omni-directional and two-dimensional bar coding technology for speed and efficient data collection, respectively, data format inconsistencies needed to be addressed first. Some domestic and international suppliers were using QR-Code barcode label format while others used the more traditional AIAG format. A powerful solution would need to automatically recognize both formats, extract and send the appropriate information.

In addition to flexible data support, the warehouse software solution also needed to support a variety of the client's custom business practices. With the anticipated

increase in transaction volume from the new facility, an automated software interface to the client's proprietary ERP system would be required as well.

The existing and new systems needed to share both network bandwidth and fulfillment devices with a necessary switching strategy for re-routing traffic in case of a system outage. Management reports from both systems would also be required throughout the transition.

Because of the mission-critical nature of the operation, disaster recovery was also a requirement. Redundant hardware needed to be ordered and configured, including replication software.

“With the WMS from Codeworks, our inventory accuracy is now at 99.998%. Our manufacturing schedules are now consistent and we’ve eliminated up to 15 chartered air shipments per week.”

*Jack McKenzie,
Vice President of
Operations*



About Us

Since 1995, Codeworks has helped Third-Party Logistics providers grow their logistics business and exceed diverse customer expectations. More than just a software provider, we are a 3PL business solutions specialist, offering business consultation, comprehensive software solutions, seamless integration, training and ongoing support to clients nationwide. Every day, our solutions process tens of thousands of orders, ship many tons of freight and manage millions of square feet of warehouse space.

We also make it easy for our current and future customers to keep up-to-date on industry news, trends and tips with our quarterly e-newsletters, delivered right to your Inbox. Timely and concise, it's just what you'd expect from a true business partner.

Codeworks offers web-based demonstrations of our products from the comfort of your office. We welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can help optimize your operation, substantially improve your competitive advantage and deliver the capability to win new business.

In addition to a very short timeframe for implementation, as the facility was beginning operations it was discovered that the existing systems could not accommodate the additional parts required by the manufacturing facility. In summary, the auto parts facility needed a more powerful system and comprehensive services to move forward.

The Solution

Codeworks had produced a consistent string of successful implementations with ODW Contract Services in their 10 years together. Since Codeworks solutions had proven themselves time and again, the warehouse and distribution logistics system (WDLs) from Codeworks was the logical choice.

An IBM i5 server was selected for the facility, with mirroring capabilities to an offsite i5 server for disaster recovery. Additional network equipment was installed to support the fail-over requirements.

Working with the client's Information Technology group, automated interfaces to the client's ERP and other systems were implemented. Powerful capabilities included logic supporting custom business rules and automated recognition/ processing of both bar code label types. From initial discussion to implementation, the team from Codeworks, ODW Contract Services and the client completed the project in five months.

The Results

From the first day of operation, inventory accuracy increased dramatically. Codeworks implemented a complex material handling solution, providing the required logistics horsepower. It was discovered during the solution review that the parts warehouse had a second use as well. In addition to shipping parts to the manufacturing plant, parts were also sent both to suppliers and other facilities. The good news was that no additional investments needed to be made, as the capabilities were already included with the warehouse management solution.

“The capabilities of WDLs allowed us to automate 3,500 cycle counts per week. For the first time, our inventory is virtually perfect.”

*Todd Holmes,
Facility Manager*



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