Micro-fulfillment Centers

What are micro-fulfillment centers?

- Highly automated, high-density, small-footprint, order fulfillment systems or structures
- Installed in stand-alone facilities or in (or near) existing stores
- Augment regional DC hubs and deliver robust fulfillment capabilities where they’re needed most

A perfect storm of omnichannel retail challenges

E-commerce pressures have created a perfect storm of market conditions for micro-fulfillment strategies to emerge.

E-commerce growth

Worldwide e-commerce sales are poised to double between 2018 and 2023.

Rising delivery expectations

56% of consumers between the ages of 18–34 expect same-day delivery.

Declining warehouse space

Industrial and logistics real estate vacancy rates remain near historic lows in 2020.

Online grocery

Grocers incur a loss of $15–$1,150 on every manually picked online grocery order.

Fast, flexible implementation

Flexible and scalable micro-fulfillment solutions that can be implemented quickly and meet unpredictable e-commerce demands.

Labor challenges

Nearly one-third of order processing and fulfillment (D&F) operations experience turnover rates between 25% and 100%.

Time-sensitive fulfillment

Cubical-style structures combine robotics and AS/RS technologies to reduce storage space by up to 85%. MFCs provide fast, accurate robotic retrieval to ergonomic workstations — and can achieve up to 500 tote/bin processing high volumes of data for faster decision-making across a variety of process workflows.

With a micro-fulfillment strategy, retailers can expand their fulfillment capabilities by

- Implementing high-density automation technologies in urban facilities and retail stores.
- Using emerging micro-fulfillment technologies.
- Leveraging existing automation technologies and emerging advancements to innovate new micro-fulfillment solutions.
- Implementing high-density automation technologies in urban facilities and retail stores.

Necessity is the mother of invention

Retailers need implementation flexibility and scalability to keep up with the automated micro-fulfillment systems capable of processing high volumes of data for faster decision-making across a variety of process workflows.

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Emerging micro-fulfillment technologies

Equipment manufacturers are leveraging existing automation technologies and emerging advancements to innovate new micro-fulfillment solutions.

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