

PRESS RELEASE

Move forward together – Increase productivity in intralogistics through the new RFID system iPLACER®

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The partners STILL GmbH and Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG have shown that Industry 4.0 can function smoothly at the forklifts and industrial trucks specialist's plant in Hamburg. There, iPLACER®, a self-sufficient RFID module, is being used for a seamless supply of production materials. It was possible to implement the new system without time-consuming retrofitting of existing processes as well as without costly programming. The system was officially transferred from its pilot phase into regular operations in the STILL's plant in Hamburg just in time at the end of the year.

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Factories are constantly in a state of flux, digitalisation is gaining ground, efficient and autonomous processes are becoming more important: the motto is to always be one step ahead – this applies to the intralogistics solutions of STILL and also to the procurement systems for production and operating materials of Würth Industrie Service. Both the companies have been partners in C-Parts management for more than 10 years and strive together to drive innovations. For this reason, they work together continuously on future issues for production and intralogistics, in particular with a practical orientation. For example, STILL is the test customer for the pilot project on the innovative RFID system iPLACER® since 2019.

iPLACER® is a handy, battery-operated module with integrated reader and transmitter unit that can be mounted easily due to its compact design. It provides an automated reordering of C-Parts using RFID technology in production from virtually anywhere and as self-sufficiently as possible, thus saving unnecessary means and time. The new RFID system aims for maximum transparency and a complete digital replenishment in the material flow.

STILL provides the right vehicle for every demand and every requirement. Be it

counterbalanced trucks, warehousing equipment or cars and tractors, be it electric, combustion-engined or hybrid, be it manually controlled, automated or autonomous – all the vehicles of STILL have one thing in common: the combination of power, precision, ergonomics, compactness, safety and environmental responsibility to make it “simply efficient”. “The efficiency factor is extremely important for us in all the areas, especially in procurement and handling of direct materials. The new iPLACER® provides substantial benefits in the storage location within the logistics terminal.” states Michael Grosser, responsible for C-Parts management at STILL. iPLACER® is installed directly at the storage location on the top-most compartment of the Kanban shelf. The empty bins are placed on a rail dedicated for them. These bins have an RFID tag by default and are moved past the iPLACER® to be recorded. The data is then transferred automatically to the ERP system of Würth Industrie Service and the products are digitally reordered immediately. In the next delivery cycle, all the Kanban bins are supplied with C-Parts and the Würth’s system operator moves them to the intended storage location in the place of use. “We save significant time with iPLACER®. The efforts involved in coordination and ordering are practically omitted, which is an absolute achievement in productivity.” clarifies Grosser. “Complete automation also makes it possible to respond many times more quickly to fluctuating demands.”

In addition to its intended purpose, the usage directly at the Kanban storage location, thanks to its compact design, iPLACER® offers almost limitless application scenarios for the manufacturing enterprises: as an ordering system at the workplace, on a flow rack for inventory management and replenishment or as a self-sufficient and independent ordering system anywhere in production, assembly, logistics and intralogistics. In all these scenarios, the focus is on maximum security of supply. By eliminating manual ordering, human errors can be completely avoided. The automatic data transfer via RFID to the ERP system of Würth Industrie Service enables a quick and transparent information flow and a seamless project management. iPLACER® can be easily integrated in the existing infrastructure of the customer and put into operation in a very short time. Space is optimally utilised as no additional space is required and the

existing workflows are retained.

STILL GmbH is a part of the global KION GROUP. Employing more than 35000 employees, it is the largest manufacturer of industrial trucks in Europe. Apart from STILL, Dematic and Linde Material Handling are among the major brands of this global group of companies. Today, Würth Industrie Service directly delivers around 5000 different products in connection technology in more than 26000 active bins to more than 920 different storage locations globally. Apart from the conventional RFID-Kanban systems, dispensing systems are also used for catering to the MRO requirements. Würth Industrie Service has formed a team of experts for KION Group which is quite familiar with the market, industry and working situation. An individual contact person in back office, field service and Key Account management as well as product and system specialists are assigned to provide on-site support in the process flow. This ensures an optimal base for the related projects in order to work on other future-oriented issues. Currently, another pilot project on innovative RFID solutions, a pallet box called iPallet, is ready to be started.

Photo material:



Photo 1: iPlacer in STILL Hamburg.jpg

Caption 1: Pilot project ready for the market – iPLACER® being used for production supply in STILL's Hamburg plant

Photo source 1: Archives of Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG



Photo 2: iPlacer.jpg

Caption 2: iPLACER® the flexible RFID module

Photo source 2: Archives of Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG