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Olympus launches supply chain automation in its largest logistics facility in Japan posting huge efficiency gains

Robotic systems nearly double maximum shipment capacity, slashing manual workload 40%, realizing quick and stable supply to the market

Olympus Corporation (Director, Representative Executive Officer, President and CEO: Yasuo Takeuchi), announced today the phased introduction of supply chain automation in one of its global largest logistics facilities located in Japan (managed by its subsidiary, Olympus Logitex Co., Ltd.—Representative Executive Officer and President: Haruo Hino) to enable the expedient and stable supply of healthcare and scientific products to the market.

Olympus Logitex, which handles global distribution of approximately 8,200 products for Olympus, will automate order picking and shipment sorting operations for approximately 3,000 products out of 8,200, such as single-use medical devices and scientific products. This automation, which is supported by the robotic storage system, bucket automated warehouse system, and automated delivery sorting system, boosts maximum shipment capacity by approximately 1.8 times* the previous level. Manual workload will be reduced by approximately 40%*, freeing some time for personnel to conduct other tasks to further boost productivity.

These efforts are aimed at optimizing Olympus' supply chain management and are part of the Transform Olympus strategic plan to further improve business operations and boost performance. The introduction of these supply chain automation systems enables the company to supply products for diverse customer needs by increasing the efficiency of shipping operations without halting distribution, even under the conditions that have become the "new normal."

Olympus offers a wide range of large and small healthcare and science-related products, and Logitex handles approximately 8,200 types of products for global distribution. This includes single-use medical devices supplied to healthcare facilities that require particularly diverse product types, small lots and short turnaround times because stable supply of medical devices tailored to each disease case is essential.

The introduction of supply chain automation is also aimed at contributing towards workplace safety by minimizing physical contact with employees amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Olympus works to continually improve logistics and help make people's lives healthier, safer and more fulfilling.

* Source: Olympus survey

Supply Chain Automation Systems in Olympus Logitex

- AutoStore Robotic Storage System (manufactured by Okamura Corp) for automated picking



More than 25,000 items in approximately 2,000 categories are efficiently managed through shelf life optimization. Workers can perform warehouse inventory management with reduced movement. The system focuses on storage efficiency.

- Bucket Automated Warehouse System (manufactured by Murata Machinery Ltd.) for automated picking



Products needed for a given shipment can be retrieved in as little as 30 seconds from among more than 10,000 items in approximately 1,000 categories. Workers can perform product picking with little movement. The system focuses on speed and handles products that are shipped more frequently.

- Uni-Shuttle HP (manufactured by Murata Machinery Ltd.) product delivery load sorting



Products that are picked for each customer order are then automatically sorted by factors including shipment destination, departure time and urgency. This has made it possible to reduce shipment preparation times, and to free up the space reserved for shipment preparation.

About Olympus

Olympus is passionate about creating customer-driven solutions for the medical, life sciences, and industrial equipment industries. For more than 100 years, Olympus has focused on making people's lives healthier, safer and more fulfilling by helping to detect, prevent, and treat disease; furthering scientific research; and ensuring public safety. For more information, visit <https://www.olympus-global.com/>. Olympus provides a wide range of solutions tailored to customer need in the fields of healthcare, life science and industry. With our home office in Tokyo, Olympus employs more than 35,000 people in approximately 40 countries and territories worldwide. We contribute to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness, and to life science research, while helping keep people safe. For more than 100 years, and into the future, Olympus is making strides to help make people's lives healthier, safer and more fulfilling.