

Laser scanners are out, cameras are in

Spanish logistics company Zeleris achieves higher read rates with cameras

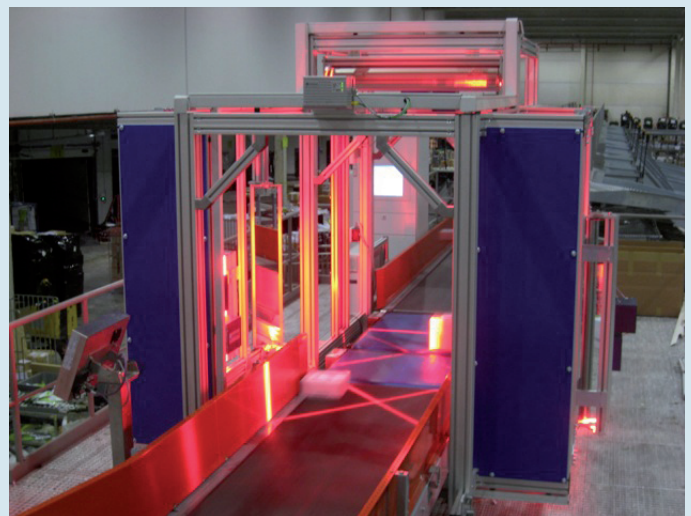
Task

The Spanish company Zeleris is active in the field of logistics and deals with storage, distribution and procurement, among other things. In the new distribution center in Madrid, shipments such as mobile telephones and telephone systems of the Spanish Telefónica are sorted. Barcodes on the shipments are read in order to allow a positive sorting process. Some barcodes only have a very tiny module width of 0.2 mm. They are also small. A so-called hybrid system was initially installed for cost reasons. This system consisted of one camera and eight laser scanners. The camera read barcodes on the upper side of the packages and the scanners scanned barcodes on the sides. Zeleris decided to remove the laser scanners and to replace them with cameras even before the warranty period expired.

Benefit

The reason for this decision: the scanning rate of the laser scanners was insufficient. In contrast, Zeleris is very satisfied with the read rate performance of the top-camera. „The read rate now has increased to such a point that we almost have too many shipments at the chutes in some instances,“ says Martin Prom, „Process Quality Manager“ of Telefonica Servicios Integrales de Distribucion.

A total of five cameras now read barcodes on five object sides. Due to the camera technology, even the small barcodes on the mobile telephone cardboard boxes are reliably identified and the shipments are correctly sorted.



VIPAC RD (R= Reading, D= Dimensioning)

Implementation

The new Zeleris distribution center in Madrid was equipped with completely new sorting technology by Vanderlande Industries España S.A. Our Spanish partner Lyl Ingeniería installed and commissioned the camera-based identification systems. The shipments are identified at a speed of 2m/s and a throughput of 4,200 shipments per hour is achieved. In addition to reading barcodes, the volume of the predominantly cubical shipments is also measured in certified fashion. Zeleris can use the measuring results for preparing statistics on internal processes, for automated invoicing, for verifying the specified volume and for optimizing the loading of the fleet.

Technical data

Identification solution	VIPAC RD (R= Reading, D= Dimensioning)	Type of reading	barcode reading on 5 sides
Number of cameras	5 high-performance line scan cameras ICAM ^{ssi2}	Volume measurement	certified volume measurement for cuboidal objects
Throughput/speed	5,500 pph, 2 m/s		