

CASE STUDY

Highly efficient distribution center for Switzerland's leading pharmaceutical wholesaler, Galexis AG.

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 Galexis

 SSI SCHAEFER

A FUTURISTIC DISTRIBUTION WAREHOUSE IN NIEDERBIPP

As the leading pharmaceutical wholesaler in Switzerland, Galexis - a member of the Galenica Group - ensures medications are supplied on schedule throughout the country. Galexis operates a highly efficient distribution center in Niederbipp that supplies pharmacies, medical practices, drugstores, residential homes and hospitals.



Galexis sets the benchmark in the Swiss healthcare market for wholesalers. Customers have access to over 100,000 SKUs, which more than 85,000 are referenced as well as demand-oriented services at Galexis. This means Galexis customers benefit from having everything they need available from a single supplier with an extremely high level of product inventory, and attractive market-driven terms. Easy, custom, and transparent embody the Galexis spirit.

Galenica - the first choice for health, beauty and wellbeing

Galenica is a fully integrated and leading healthcare provider in Switzerland. With roughly 500 pharmacies (a mix of proprietary, joint venture and independent-partner outlets), Galenica operates the largest network of pharmacies in Switzerland. In addition, Galenica develops and offers well-known private label brands and products, exclusive brands and products from vendor partners, as well as a variety of on-site health services and tests for customers. Galenica is also the leading provider of pre-wholesale and wholesale distribution and database services in the Swiss healthcare market.

LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP

It's been over a decade since SSI SCHAEFER laid the foundation for one of the most modern distribution centers in the Swiss healthcare industry. The Galexis Niederbipp facility served as a pillar for futuristic distribution, but an increase in an aging Swiss market warrants an increase in capacity. Instead of costly renovations for located warehouses in Schönbühl (Bern) and Schlieren (Zurich), Galexis opted for a new, ultra-modern solution provided by intralogistics specialist SSI SCHAEFER.



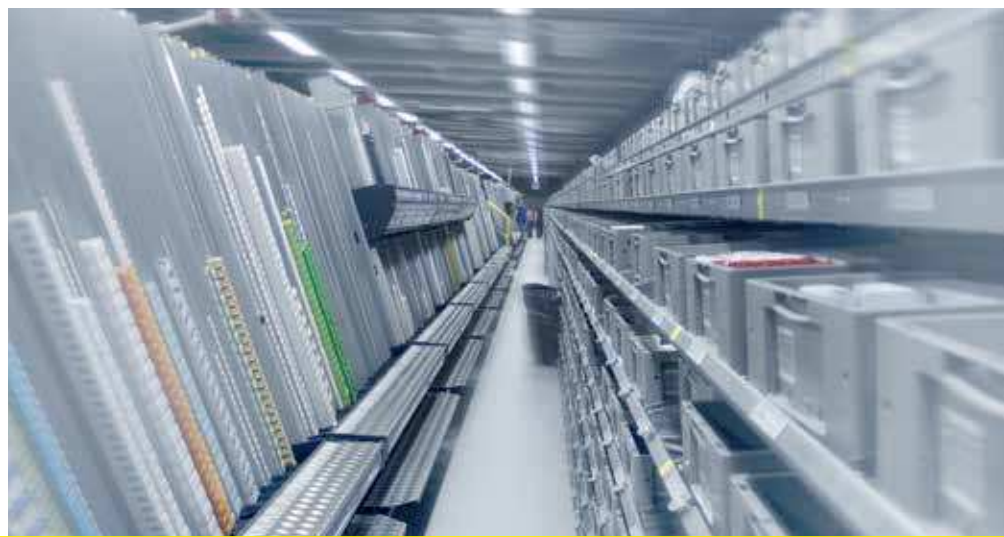
The entire system can process 4,000 bins an hour

Increased demand and production levels

As an experienced wholesaler and service provider, Galexis ensures both timely and accurate supplies of medication to all healthcare partners with expedited service available across Switzerland. Thanks to outstanding customer satisfaction levels, Galexis has enjoyed an increase in demand and decided to expand its capacities in cooperation with SSI SCHAEFER—thereby increasing satisfaction even further.



Schärer Carousel System



FROM THE INITIAL STONE TO AN ULTRA MODERN EXPANSION—ALL FROM ONE SOURCE

Initial construction

The pioneering of the initial distribution centre achieved 70 percent of automation and 100 percent of storage-location management. The relevant location of an item could be determined at any time—even if it's currently in transport. Seamless batch tracing and rapid blocking of items in the event of a recall were paramount.

The initial construction included 16 Schärer Carousel Systems (SCS) with four Pick to Tote workstations, which follows the goods-to-person principle. A miniload system with five storage-retrieval machines and 74,650 storage locations, flow racks with 23,167 storage locations, and 3,973 pallet storage locations. The facility also included an automatic picking system (A-Frame) with a picking performance of 1,600 bins an hour, a fully automated bin washing system and several kilometres of conveying system. Bin processing capabilities of 2,800 bins per hour.



Automated Miniload system



INITIAL CONSTRUCTION / EXPANSION

Several kilometres of conveying system connect the different areas and levels



Pick to Tote workstation

Expansion

The expansion provided a core element by SSI SCHAEFER, which was the integration of a second miniload with double-deep storage. With 57,652 bin locations and 27,700 bin locations for flow racks, the updated storage capacity allows for future growth. Other elements include a control system and approximately four kilometres of bin conveyors with double de-stacker machines and the supply of 65,000 bins.

Three Schäfer Miniload Cranes (SMC 2) are deployed within a three-aisle automated miniload system. Along with the Galexis double combitelescope load handling devices, these compact machines can process 51 combined double cycles or 125 storage cycles an hour—performing automated replenishment of order picking from flow racks. Picking is performed at 30 manual workstations. In addition, a platform provides more space for a total of 3,300 m² picking locations.

SSI SCHAEFER completed the initial distribution centre in 2008 with the goal of significantly increasing efficiency and quality, as well as delivering more cost-effective workflows and the highest safety standards. Thanks to the successful expansion of the warehouse in the summer of 2016, the throughput of the entire system has increased capacity up to 4,000 bins per hour—a rise that satisfies the needs of Galexis and its customers, guaranteeing timely and error-free deliveries.

FACTS & FIGURES

System key figures

Warehouse size	24,300 m ²
System size	21,000 m ²
SKUs	45,000
Bins per day	approx. 25,000
Lines per day	89,000
Shifts per day	2

SSI SCHAEFER scope of supply and services

Automatic picking system (A-Frame)	
Quantity	69 with 3 double filling points
Loading channels	5,798
Performance	1,600 bins per hour
Schäfer Carousel System	
Quantity	16
Carousel carriers	64 per SCS
Levels	22
Performance	250 storage and retrievals operations per hour (per carousel)
Bin storage locations	22,528
Miniload	
Miniload 1 (initial construction)	
Aisles	5
Performance	44 double cycles per hour per aisle
Bin storage locations	74,650
Miniload 2 (expansion)	
Aisles	3
Storage-retrieval machines	Schäfer Miniload Crane (SMC)
Performance	51 double cycles per hour per aisle
Bin storage locations	81,500
Other storage systems	
Pallet racks	4,663 pallet storage locations
Flow racks	50,867 storage locations
Work stations	
Pick to Tote work stations	4
Manual picking stations	58 + 2 quick work stations
Software solution	
SSI SCHAEFER WMS solution	





SIX REASONS FOR CHOOSING SSI SCHAEFER:

- **Security:**

As a financially independent family business we are committed to long-term solutions. You can trust that we will be there for you tomorrow and in the years to come.

- **Efficiency:**

Our solutions are scalable and grow with your business. An SSI SCHAEFER solution is a future-oriented investment.

- **Quality:**

As a specialist in automation, we provide a single-source solution. As an original equipment manufacturer we guarantee quality and the right solutions for your needs.

- **Reliability:**

Thanks to our world-wide Customer Service & Support network we ensure a smooth operation of your system.

- **Know-how:**

Our solutions are always up-to-date with the latest technological standards and are easily integrated into an existing (IT) landscape.

- **Internationality:**

As a globally acting company we have local offices worldwide and our team of experts speaks your language.



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