

A Körber Industry Best Practice

# Layer picking optimization

How our automated layer picker solution helped Coca-Cola increase order preparation efficiency and quality, at a lower cost.



## Snapshot:

Company:	<b>Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (CCEP)</b>
Industry:	<b>Beverages</b>
Number of Antwerp employees:	<b>300</b>
Antwerp warehouse capacity:	<b>29.400 pallets</b>
Körber Competency:	<b>Layer Picker Technology</b>
Solutions(s):	<b>Layer Picker Solution</b>

## Complexity

To handle the sudden increase in volume in their Antwerp distribution center, with a flexible, fast, and reliable layer picking solution.

## Best Practice

An automated layer picker solution integrated seamlessly into the existing operation, increasing efficiency, accuracy and quality, while reducing costs and health and safety risks.

**144**

pallet buffer positions

**110**

SKU's managed simultaneously

Up to  
**200**

cycles per hour

## A higher volume at a lower cost

In Belgium, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (CCEP) produces and distributes a broad range of beverages, serving close to 12 million consumers.

To improve customer service, CCEP decided to optimize their supply chain network, reducing external storage, and moving all logistics operations to production sites. As a result, 90% of all external warehousing was redirected to the Antwerp site, significantly increasing its picking and order preparation volume.

## Higher expectations

CCEP quickly realized that merely extending manual picking operations would not keep up with the ever-growing volume. A more flexible solution was needed to pick the wide range of SKUs, as well as the large variety of products and product shapes. All of this, while reducing damages and errors, and improving the quality and stability of customer pallets.

CCEP needed a new automated solution. Something fast, resilient, safe, and cost-efficient.



### **A fully automated future**

Taking on this project was a big challenge for CCEP, but also a great opportunity. This completely automated layer picking process meant answering increasing customer demand for mixed layer pallets efficiently.

Our in-depth knowledge of automated layer picking was crucial to the partnership.

**“We have chosen Körber because the company stands out in know-how and has demonstrated experience in the world of layer picking systems.”**

#### **Guy Vansant**

Associate Director for Logistics Operations, CCEP

The layer picker solution receives full pallets from the ASRS, and prepares and delivers mixed-layer pallets in a fully automated, software-driven process. The system consists of a layer picker gantry with two layer picker heads, three transfer cars and a conveyor system, including automatic strapping. It handles 150 layers per hour and can manage 110 SKUs simultaneously. Its maximum capacity is 200 cycles per hour, with the possibility of picking more than one layer per cycle.

Its scalable and expandable design means CCEP is now prepared for the challenges of a fast-moving business, wherein the customers set the pace.

### **Safer for workers and better for clients**

By partially replacing manual handling with automation, picking operations are now more efficient, and staff safety has significantly improved.

**“It’s very important to note that the new solution is also much safer for our operators. They can pick a larger volume, a wider range of products and the accuracy of the order processing is higher, which provides an even better service to our customers.”**

#### **Guy Vansant**

Associate Director for Logistics Operations, CCEP

To continue supporting CCEP, the Körber service team is always available to help. The 24/5 hotline agreement allows CCEP to communicate with our technicians and operators should any issue arise. Twice a year, our technical team will also take care of their system’s technical maintenance, as well as providing preventive maintenance.

**“We had a good experience with the Körber team. Throughout the different phases of the project, they showed professionalism and flexibility. Even though we have been severely impacted by COVID lockdowns and travel limitations, they were always looking for solutions in order to reduce this impact on the product schedule.”**

#### **Attila Csongrad**

Engineering Project Manager, CCEP

**Looking for an automated layer picking solution customized to your unique needs and facilities?**

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Körber Supply Chain

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