

## RETAIL LOGISTICS



# THE ESSENTIALS OF IMAGING

## Logistics for Konica Minolta

### Customer profile

The core business of the Konica Minolta Group is worldwide development and provision of office equipment, in particular multifunction peripheral devices, laser printers, digital printing systems and related consumables. Konica Minolta is the market leader in this field in Europe and North America.

### Assignment

Because of its high grow rates, Konica Minolta invited new tenders at the international level for its office electronics logistics in 2007. At the same time logistics lines previously managed separately in Germany and Belgium were to be consolidated. This required development of a holistic logistics concept, one that extended from project planning all the way to operation of an optimum facility. It was necessary to model and establish all technical, informative and operational structures.



## Logistics service

Copiers and printers of all sizes and performance classes, peripheral and supplementary equipment as well as consumables and accessories, such as operating manuals, handbooks and cables, are stored, consolidated, picked, prepared and value-enhanced according to need, cleared through customs and delivered at the European Distribution Center (EDC). All European and several African countries are served from the EDC.

The Emmerich location was selected because of its ideal trimodal connections. BLG's logistics concept starts right from the nearby container terminal. Containers from western ports reach Emmerich on inland vessels via the Rhine and are brought to the EDC over a short distance by BLG's own fleet of trucks according to need. In other words, the company largely uses waterways as an alternative mode of transportation for the inbound process.

By means of yard management integrated into the warehouse management system, containers are routed to the gate closest to the optimum storage location. Control of the entire incoming goods procedure as well as the order picking and shipping process is carried out via mobile data terminal. The individually designed warehouse management system manages the flows of goods according to the customer requirements so as to provide the goods right on schedule.

At Konica Minolta the focus is on the individual product, which is always geared to the needs of the end consumer. For this reason packaging is, for the most part, not standardized, but individualized – a special challenge in terms of operating equipment and handling of the goods. BLG Retail Logistics tackles it with maximum flexibility in its warehouse equipment as well as in the design of the processes. The company has taken flexibility and quality into account right from construction of the facility. Consequently the approx. 70 loading gates can be used flexibly for all means of transportation.

The facility, measuring 860,000 square feet, was completed within ten months. Special importance was attached to ecological criteria during construction of the facility. Heating of the complete office section and social rooms, for instance, is provided using geothermal energy and solar technology supplies hot water. A high degree of air tightness in the building, high insulation standards and rainwater treatment for use of graywater are some of the other measures that were implemented.

The materials management system in place was specially developed for Konica Minolta so that all requirements of our client could be met. A purely standard system would never have been able to achieve this. Consequently we have an individual and comprehensive supply of data for our individual services.

BLG implements numerous measures to meet the high safety requirements in connection with status as an "Authorized Economic Operator" (AEO-F). It received AEO-F status back in February 2010 and was thus one of the first companies to attain this level of quality.

The status is imperative, moreover, for simplification of customs clearance, which BLG Retail Logistics carries out for the benefit of its client Konica Minolta as a long-standing, reliable and competent customs partner. The Emmerich location is operated as a type E bonded warehouse. This means import duties do not become due until the time the goods leave the warehouse. In addition, BLG Retail Logistics is recognized as an authorized recipient and shipper.



## Summary

BLG won the new international tender for handling office electronics logistics. Since then the distribution center in Emmerich has served as a hub for supplying sales partners in Europe, Africa and the Near East. An individual IT system was developed and implemented for managing deliveries. The convincing IT concept was a decisive aspect for the contract award. In the course of construction of the facility, moreover, we attached importance to ecological sustainability and implemented relevant measures.

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