

FASTPIC systems **SITEBYTES**

Total Inventory & Material Management Suite of Software

FastPic4 Software Automates A Universal Workstation Pick-to-Ship Zone In High Volume Fulfillment Operation

A third-party fulfillment house, Halo Distribution LLC, recently began its U.S. operations to pick, pack, and ship products to the customers of retailer clients. Third-party fulfillment, which was essentially non-existent five years ago, is expected to grow into a 3-billion dollar business over the next few years.

Halo headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, placed itself on the ground floor of this fulfillment niche by developing a highly flexible, 40,000 square foot distribution center (DC) that can readily accommodate change as the mail order and e-tailing business model continues climbing its learning curve. Halo's distribution system provides 24-hour shipping or four to six hour shipping optional via a wide range of carriers.

The key to fast, efficient, and accurate picking-to-shipping carton operations is a workstation consisting of two Remstar 25-foot long, 20-carrier horizontal carousels with pick-to-light control for split case picks. The horizontal carousels are teamed with a pick-to-light flow rack system for full-carton picks, plus a pick-to-light shipping carton batch table. Driving the automation is FastPic Systems' FastPic4 inventory management software designed to manage multiple work zones that include both automated and manual storage and retrieval systems. At Halo, FastPic4 software operates the storage and retrieval workstation and has been integrated with the facility's warehouse management system.

FastPic inventory management software, gave Halo an advanced order processing module that improved their systems efficiency and order picking accuracy while reducing re-stocking time in Halo's applications. "Our target was to pick 450 lines per hour with one operator covering both the



Site

Halo Distribution, Louisville, KY

Application

Retail distribution for e-tailers and retailers, by a third party logistics (3PL) company

Software

FastPic4 Inventory Mgt. Software

Integrated Automation

Two horizontal carousels,
Pick-To-Light flow rack system

Summary

Halo Distribution system picks up to 700 lines per hour at 99.82% accuracy



Automated universal workstation consisting of horizontal carousels and pick-to-light flow rack provides four to six hour order processing at up to 700 lines per hour.

carousels and flow racks," commented Stu Gilray, Halo General Manager. "Calculations proved very accurate: as one operator has been consistently able to pick 450 to 500 lines an hour, hour after hour, working at a steady pace. If more output is needed, a second operator pre-stages the light shipping cartons and provides other assistance. With two operators, output rises to 700 lines per hour or so, depending on order profiles."

A typical Halo client has a database of several thousand consumers ordering products on an irregular basis, such as food supplements, hair care, packaging supplies, bottled water, etc. The average shipment is two lines totaling five items per carton. Halo's server receives orders from clients and

fulfillment is completed by controlled induction of batched orders Halo ships OEM components to its integrator customers for installation.

"We investigated a variety of product storage and picking schemes, and selected FastPic4 it provided the highest productivity for the least cost," Gilray related.

Every pick is automatically double-checked - first by the pick-to-light light devices on the carousels and flow racks, and second by the put-to-light system on the batch table. Further, a conveyor scale in packing confirms carton weights and post-order audits have shown 99.82% accuracy levels.

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