



# Estée Lauder

*Highly mechanized high performance all-in-one system*

## HIGH VOLUME

The system is highly mechanized capable of processing over 1800 cartons per hour.

## PICK OPTIMIZATION

Many different picking techniques are used in one system like: Pick by Light, RF-scanning, Pick to Light Cart.

## VALUE ADDED SERVICES

The system supports many value added services like: packing, weighing, dunnage, printing, pricing, sortation, etc.

Headquartered in New York, Estée Lauder is one of the world's leading manufacturers and marketers of quality skin care, make-up, fragrance and haircare products. Founded in 1946, Estée Lauder is known for its upscale items and dedication to research and product testing. The company sells their products in over 130 countries and territories.

The guiding vision of The Estée Lauder Companies is *Bringing the best to everyone we touch: the best products, the best people and the best ideas*. Based on that same principle, Estée Lauder selected Inther as 'the best' system integrator for the installation of an impressive automated logistics system in their new distribution center in Belgium.



## Concept

The existing distribution center had reached its capacity limits, hindering Estée Lauder's expansion. For this reason the decision was made to build the Northern European Distribution Center (NEDC), centrally in Europe located in Belgium. After the turn-key contract was awarded to Inther in September 2004, the hand-over of the system took place in May 2005. The new distribution center opened its doors to distribute over 20,000 products directly to stores or chain distribution centers throughout the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Luxemburg, Switzerland and France.





The distribution center features 5,000 Pick to Light slots for the fast movers and more than 20,000 shelf locations for the slow movers.

The system includes four automated carton erectors and two automatic labeling devices. Inther's Pick to Light system is implemented for fast-moving picking and directs the operator to the correct location for easy, zero-error picking. RF picking is used for slow-moving articles. Installation of Z-elevators creates optimal accessibility to the replenishment side of flow racking and pallet racking.

A carton waste conveyor system runs throughout the complete system and is connected to a carton compactor outside the building. All products are tracked via barcodes throughout the facility. To assure 100% correctness, an integrated weighing scale checks the measured weight with the calculated system weight. Any irregularities are revealed at once and corrected immediately. Cartons are then automatically sealed and conveyed to the order consolidation area where they are staged for loading onto trucks.

## System

Following shows an overview of the implemented Warehouse Technology:

- 38 workstations with 5,000 Pick to Light flow-rack slots;
- WCS - powered by Inther LC - including Workload Balancing and RF controlled Pick to Cart;
- 2,000 meters high volume conveying technology (>1800 cartons/h) with Z-elevators;
- Automated Box Closing Machines (2) and Carton Erectors (4) with Automatic Label Applicators (2);
- Radio Frequency network with more than 30 mobile data terminals;
- Dynamic weighing scale;
- Value Added Services system support;
- Automatic packslip folding and carton insertion.

## Summary

- **High volume conveying technology (>1800 cartons/h)**
- **5,000 Pick to Light locations**
- **Radio Frequency network with 33 mobile data terminals**
- **Automated box - closing machines (2)**
- **Automated carton erectors (4)**
- **6000 ft fully automated conveyor system**
- **Fully automated label applicators with max. 4 labels per box (2)**
- **38 PTL workstations**
- **Dynamic weighing scale**
- **Sorter with 5 exits for sortation to pallets**

Luc Vernetten, operations manager at Estée Lauder NEDC in Oevel:

"The system is highly mechanized capable of processing over 1800 cartons per hour."



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