

A photograph of a warehouse interior, showing a metal cart filled with cardboard boxes. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The cart is in the foreground, and stacks of boxes are visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

-ARCO

# Innovative packaging line for CEVA Logistics

Customer case | 2021

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## Innovative packaging line for CEVA Logistics

A customized box for each product – all wrapped up in an automated process. This year, we are packaging faster, smarter, more sustainably, and with fewer operators and errors than ever before. In this case, we'll be taking a look at CEVA Logistics' new smart packaging line, where human intervention is almost a thing of the past. In much the same way as ordering products is becoming easier and easier, huge advances are also being made in the world of packaging. Keep reading to find out about the unique collaboration between system integrator ARCO Solutions and supply chain manager CEVA Logistics, which resulted in an innovative packaging line.



**Smaller boxes, more efficient  
processes, and a smaller carbon  
footprint**

## Low-cost and high-yield packaging

For many organizations, reducing their carbon footprint is a huge challenge. They often don't know where to start and what steps to take. For companies that pack and ship products, the boxes in which the products are packed and shipped are critical. The impact of smaller – customized – boxes is immense.

All transport movements start with the size of the box. And customized boxes not only mean fewer trucks, delivery vans, ships, and planes, but also less cardboard – so fewer trees have to be cut down. This means huge gains in terms of efficiency, sustainability, labour costs, and ergonomics. Customized boxes for people, the planet, and profit.





# **Smart packaging: How does it work?**

## Smart packaging: How does it work?

As part of the revamped smart packaging process, six of the seven steps previously performed by operators have been automated. All data from each package is automatically recorded, monitored, and communicated. Firstly, the products are identified. The warehouse control system (WCS) ensures that the right products – with certain dimensions – are sent to the right place. Secondly, the boxes are formed to match the dimensions of these products. This takes place entirely by machine, where the boxes are folded and assembled with closed undersides. Then, warehouse workers place the products in the customized boxes.

Step four involves automatically weighing each package; the weighing station enters the weight directly into the system and communicates it with the labelling machine. In step five, the box is mechanically folded, taped, and forwarded to step six, where the box is automatically labelled. At the final step, the boxes are scanned and automatically transported via conveyor belt to the right delivery company.

The main advantage of working with a WCS is that the conveyor system communicates with the customer's WMS, which ensures that the processes in the warehouse are optimally controlled. The packages are selected, scanned, weighed, and sorted automatically and as efficiently as possible. This reduces both downtime and errors. A WCS is a bit like a digital library, which runs on two physical servers, where all the data is stored. If one server goes down, the other jumps into action to take over straight away. The organization that actually uses the WCS, not the organization that offers the system, retains full control and all stored data.





# **Why logistics companies are investing in warehouse automation**

## An innovative, **high-tech** packaging line

The entire packaging line can be monitored remotely. If necessary, individual components can be corrected or adjusted for optimal results. Labour costs are significantly reduced and better results are achieved with fewer man-hours. After all, having fewer people working on the process leads to fewer errors and happier consumers. Additionally, effective warehouse automation improves process control. Packaging lines can be set up more effectively and efficiently, resulting in a higher throughput and lower operational costs. CEVA is also impressed with the comprehensive solution that has been implemented in collaboration with ARCO:

*“Products are no longer packaged in standard-sized boxes with filling material, but in product-specific customized boxes. Because the boxes are adapted to the dimensions of the product, we are able to significantly reduce the amount of packaging material we use and we no longer need to carry stocks of different sizes of cardboard.”*



In the future, will packaging and transporting products be as easy as it is for the consumer to order them? Will the warehouse soon be able to control everything itself without human intervention? Or will warehouse workers continue to play a crucial role in keeping everything running smoothly? It is too early to say that people will no longer be needed in warehouses in five years' time, but things are moving fast in the world of packaging. One thing is certain, however: fewer and fewer hands will be needed to get the package to its destination in a suitable box.





# Need help with a technical issue?



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