



## **DHL Supply Chain further accelerates commercial deployment of its fleet of autonomous forklifts and pallet movers**

- **Currently deployed autonomous forklifts already move millions of pallets in DHL warehouses every year**
- **Autonomous indoor robotic transporters increase operational efficiency and flexibility in labor-tight markets and work safely alongside DHL employees**
- **DHL forecasts: “Up to 30% of our global material-handling equipment will use some form of robotic automation by 2030.”**

**Bonn, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021:** DHL Supply Chain, the contract logistics arm of Deutsche Post DHL Group, is further accelerating the commercial deployment of autonomous forklifts and pallet movers in its more than 1,500 warehouses worldwide, focusing on sites in labor-tight markets across Europe, the United Kingdom, Ireland and North America. Autonomous pallet movers can handle both horizontal and vertical movements of palletized goods, making them especially useful in sectors such as consumer, retail or automotive that are characterized by full-pallet handling. The deployment is part of DHL Supply Chain's Accelerated Digitalization agenda, a strategy for commercializing and scaling innovative solutions and new technologies.

“Effective robotic support of our warehouse employees is not limited to the piece-picking processes at our booming e-commerce and fulfillment sites. Autonomous pallet movers can support service quality and operational excellence in many ways. One of the main advantages of these indoor robotic transport devices is that they add immediate benefits to our operations and can theoretically be deployed in all of our pallet-handling operations. All told, our sites see millions of pallet movements every day. Not only do these processes require technical assets – forklifts or pallet movers, they also tie up substantial workforce capacity that we could deploy more effectively elsewhere, especially in labor-tight markets,” says Markus Voss, Global CIO & COO at DHL Supply Chain. “We estimate that up to 30% of our global material-handling equipment fleet will use some form of robotic automation by 2030.”

Autonomous forklifts take over the picking, put-away and replenishment of full pallets in warehouses, reducing the number of manual pallet transfers without requiring significant changes in warehouse infrastructure. Such forklifts can easily reach DHL's highest warehousing racks at heights of more than 10 meters and can handle all kinds of pallets, stillages and other unit load storage equipment.

In their currently deployed configurations, the robotic units achieve 65% of human productivity and move 10 to 15 pallets per hour while safely maneuvering alongside warehouse employees and traditional material-handling equipment. Such forms of hybrid work involving the collaboration of



humans and robots can be especially helpful in markets seeing booming or highly volatile logistics activities, as well as in regions that are temporarily suffering shortages of qualified workers.

With 24/7 operation, DHL calculates that a fleet of just a dozen of these autonomous forklifts can handle more than a million pallets per year in just one facility. Automated indoor robotic transport increases efficiency and improves workplace safety by taking over the repetitive task of driving pallets around. Improvements of this kind help DHL Supply Chain to further increase operational excellence for its customers while making its operations more effective.

As part of its digitalization agenda, DHL Supply Chain constantly assesses new technologies and solutions that add immediate value to its warehouse operations and can be deployed on a commercial scale. In addition to robotic and wearable devices, DHL Supply Chain strongly relies on software and data analytics solutions that can provide real-time information on its customer' logistics networks. Algorithms and artificial intelligence implemented with access to big data have proven to be game changers in global supply chain planning, and DHL will continue to expand their deployment.

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