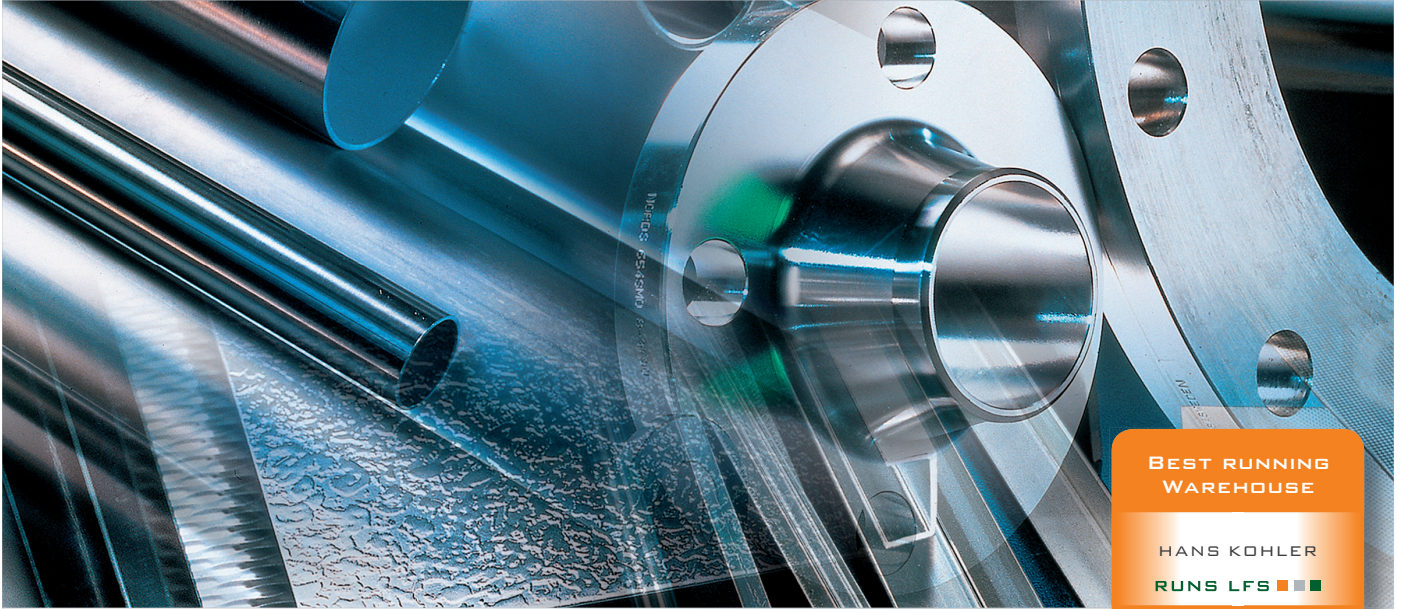


WAREHOUSE MANAGEMENT BY E+P



BEST RUNNING
WAREHOUSE

HANS KOHLER

RUNS LFS

EHRHARDT+PARTNER

HANS KOHLER AG

CHALLENGE

- Complex and varying warehousing processes
- Permanent batch/lot tracing
- Partial control of the MFC (WCS) functions in the SPW
- Residual length maintenance for long goods

SOLUTION

- Implementation of the warehouse management system LFS
- Innovative combination of Pick-to-Light and Put-by-Light
- Module for connecting and controlling the storage technology

RESULTS

- 100% control at all bin locations
- Control of 22,234 containers in the automated small parts warehouse
- Easy integration of program modifications
- Future-proof solutions
- Processes adapted to industry requirements

LFS for the central steel warehouse in Switzerland

Four automated storage units and a separate production department: The Hans Kohler AG has to cope with highly complex logistics processes on a daily basis. The Swiss steel trader decided on the warehouse management system LFS provided by Ehrhardt + Partner (E+P) as a global solution that controls and coordinates all movements in the central warehouse. The software guarantees the optimum coordination of the automated pallet, small parts and steel warehouses as well as the neighboring sawmill. For the future it is planned to also integrate a long goods warehouse. A transparent supply chain, intuitive operation and processes adapted to industry requirements are the result.

The Hans Kohler AG is one of the leading steel traders of Switzerland. The Zurich-based company imports semi-finished and finished products from the Scandinavian steelworks of the Outokumpu Group. Already today, the new central warehouse in Dietikon connects three of five warehouses.

Besides metal sheets and long goods, Kohler also stores finished products like pipes, flanges and stainless steel valves. “Due to the complexity and variety of our processes, we placed high demands on the new warehouse management system”, says Benno Kündig, project manager at Hans Kohler. “After an intensive analysis of the WMS market, the decision in favor of E+P was easy to make. They offered us a global solution that would allow us to manage our entire central warehouse.” Before the implementation of the software, Kohler picked the items based on parts lists generated in the ERP system. For the new central warehouse, this process was not future-proof.



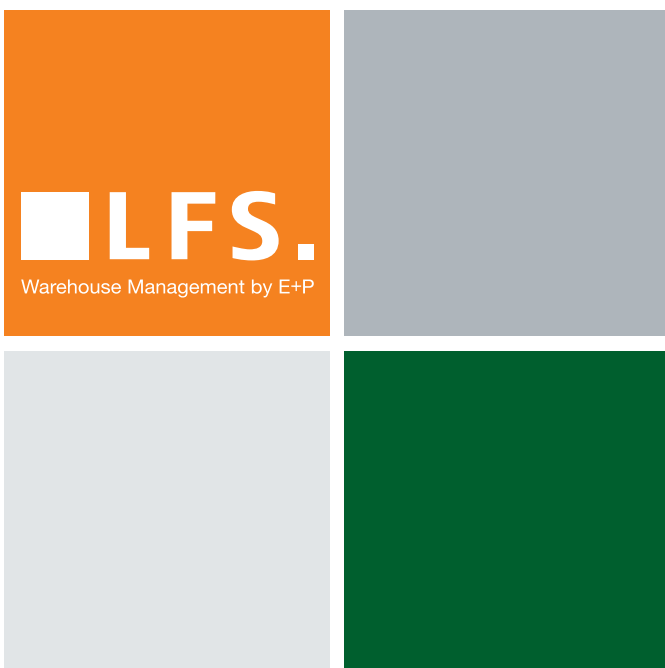
■ **Transparency and efficiency**

The steel trader focuses on quality. That makes a permanent traceability of all lots essential. LFS fulfills this requirement by logging the single work steps. Already before delivering the goods to the central warehouse, the suppliers send a shipping advice. LFS then retrieves the relevant data from the ERP system. This information is just as important for storing the items as for picking them: All metal sheets are delivered in piles. Due to production tolerances, it may happen that the delivered pallets have different weights. The weight is noted on the pallets. The total weight of all pallets indicated on the delivery note is later converted into the pallet weight. This way, the stock is managed at item level. “LFS converts the weight defined in the ERP system into the pallet and piece weight”, Benno Kündig explains. “This is the only

way to guarantee a correct picking process.” Once the trucks have been unloaded, the pallets are scanned and the weight printed on the shipping labels is compared to the actual pallet weight. If the minimum inventory level in the automated warehouse with a total of 1,397 bins is reached, LFS will store the delivered pallets there. If this is not the case, the software will allocate the pallets to bulk storage locations.

■ **Pick-by-Light and Put-to-Light**

Also during picking, LFS guarantees simple process steps. There is a 100% control at all bin locations. With the help of integrated scales, the employees can check the weight of the items picked. In the automated small parts warehouse (SPW) with 22,234 containers, an innovative combination of Pick-by-Light and Put-to-Light is used. The containers of the SPW can be divided into four segments so that different items can be stored in one container. The segment from which the items must be picked is illuminated. At the same time, a light indicates the picking container in which the items have to be placed together with the quantity to be picked. “LFS controls this complex process and performs some of the functions of the SPW”, Benno Kündig explains.



■ Maintenance of residual lengths in the future long goods warehouse

The construction of the fourth warehouse area, the long goods warehouse, has already begun. Here too, LFS will be used. In this development phase, E+P will extend the warehouse management system in a way that the long goods and the residual lengths are maintained in coordination with the production orders for the automatic saws. "For us as a steel trader, it is particularly important to be able to handle residual lengths. This significantly increases the transparency in the warehouse and the planning security", Benno Kündig emphasizes. "Individual modifications like this one can be easily integrated into LFS at any time."



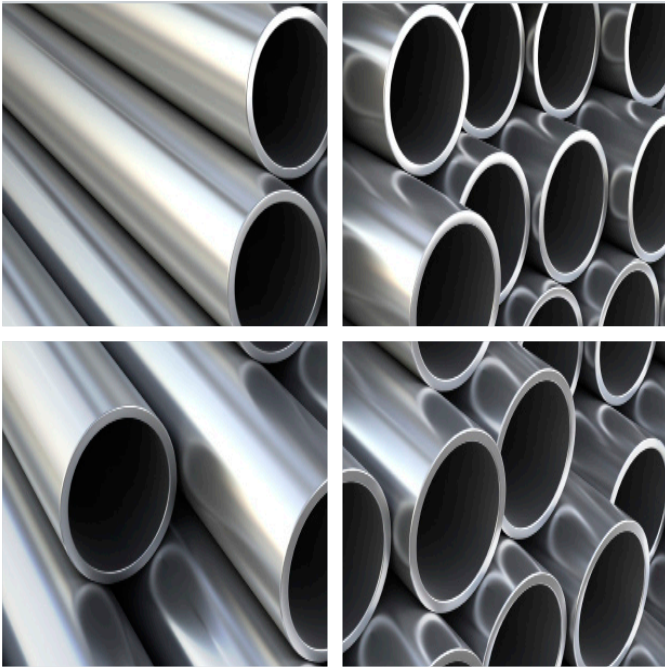
KOHLER

HANS KOHLER AG ZÜRICH

Hans Kohler AG

- Company headquarter in Zurich, Switzerland
- One of the leading steel distributors in Switzerland
- Warehouses in 3 different locations in Schlieren/Dietikon





AT A GLANCE

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■ Ehrhardt + Partner

With its LFS Software Suite, Ehrhardt + Partner (E+P) offers an industry-independent total solution and is one of the world's leading logistics experts. As a Supply Chain Execution System, LFS is currently successfully deployed on five continents and enables a control of all logistics processes across all industries. The internationally active company group was founded in 1987 and currently employs more than 500 people at 14 locations. More than 60,000 users worldwide use the system for their supply chain management.

The range of services offered by the LFS software suite includes everything necessary for an integrated logistics control system: the warehouse management system LFS.wms for controlling intralogistics, the material flow controller LFS.mfc, and the transportation management solutions LFS.tms for efficient tour planning and processing. Data solutions, logistics planning and consulting, private cloud and hosting services as well as warehouse seminars at the LFS.academy complement the company's range of solutions.

In combination with in-depth warehousing advice, comprehensive expert knowledge in warehouse logistics and reliable support, E+P offers everything from one source. Currently, more than 1,000 customers from all industries are on the list of references.

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