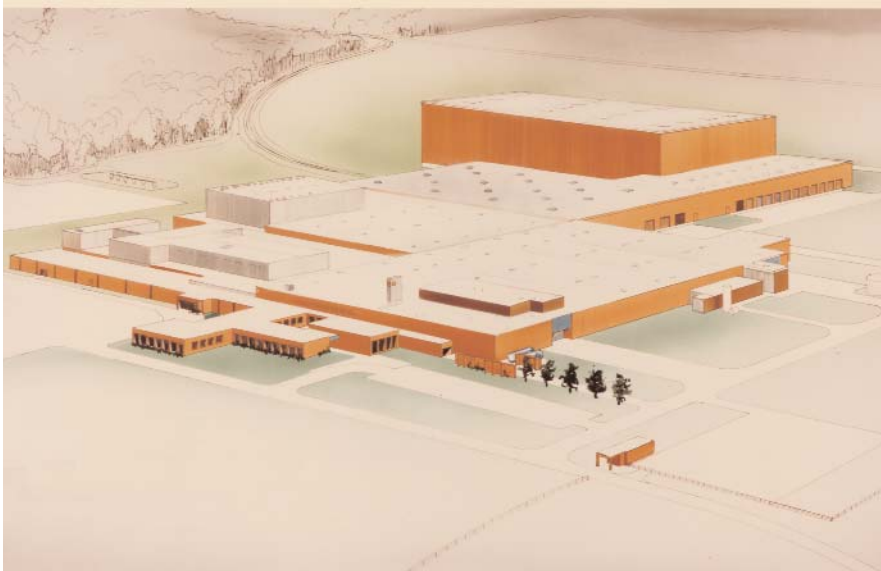


## 2-MINUTE OVERVIEW

# Pharmaceutical Company Uses Automation for High Volume, Time-Sensitive Product Handling



### Features/Benefits Provided:

- Provided high security for FDA regulated substances
- Provided lower labor costs
- Reduced product damage for unique product characteristics
- Provided absolute inventory accuracy and integrity

A specialty pharmaceutical company, whose products include delivery systems as well as drugs used primarily in hospital environments, needed a solution. The nature of their primary products, saline based intravenous solution bags, makes handling and accountability significantly more complicated than typically stored and moved products. Further, absolute inventory accuracy, traceability, and accountability were required by their customers and mandated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). At several of their manufacturing facilities, the customer decided on an integrated solution of 3 technologies from the supplier: Automated Storage and Retrieval System (AS/RS), Automated Guided Vehicle (AGV), and Equipment Management System (EMS).

To handle volumes at one site, 28 lift deck AGVs were selected. Using RF communications and a patented guidance system, no floor wires are used. This allows flexibility to guideway changes for new operations. The AGVs interface with static "4 post" pick up stands and conveyors. The integrity/size of the load is checked by special sizing stations located prior to load induction into the storage rack.

The heart of the system is the EMS which maintains load identity, tracks load movement through the system, moves loads logically through the system, directs movement of the equipment in real time, and interfaces with the customer's host computer. The EMS meets FDA requirements and is validated through testing and documentation.

*The solution has shown its flexibility to adapt to the dynamic pharmaceutical market place as well as the customer's evolving processes.*

The Storage and Retrieval Machines installed have a 4000 lb capacity, featuring advanced structural design that allows high performance and essentially an infinite structural life.

Proud Member of the  
AGVS Product  
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Industry



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