

E&K Automation targeting growth in UK AGV market

Although 2020 has been a challenging year, EK Automation has seen some very positive changes over the last 12 months. The global pandemic has shown to the market the value of automated transport technology and the benefits customers can receive by using these solutions. This hasn't just been seen within one industry. With many different industries now looking to introduce transport robotics into their intralogistics processes, the positive growth of the business looks set to continue throughout 2021.

EK Automation have seen the demand for their automated solutions increase over the years, with this year in particular seeing interest cultivate due to the nature of their solutions. It has become widely accepted that automated intralogistics are key to keeping production costs under control whilst at the same time building highly flexible, sustainable production structures to ensure their processes are robust, as these automated solutions improve production efficiency.

The introduction of Chris Price, as the new UK Managing Director, has been an exciting change for the business. His 20 years of experience, combined with having previously worked with and for some of the largest and most renowned companies in the intralogistics industry, will be invaluable in pushing EK Automation in the UK to new heights. The company are pleased to be able to appoint a proven industry expert to further strengthen their management team. Mike Burke, the previous MD, has now taken on the important role of Operations Director and is responsible for project management and existing customer business in the UK.

Mike, who is also the Vice President of



the Automated Material Handling Systems Association, has recently been selected as a board member for the organisation as well. This appointment is a testament to the highly respected industry professional, with his 30 years of experience and dedication to the ongoing success of EK Automation and the commitment Mike has shown to promoting excellence in the automated material handling industry it is without a doubt a fantastic achievement.

The excitement doesn't stop there. With the introduction of Chris Price, EK Automation have been keen to recruit further within the industry, with a number of key people joining the business in the New Year. The recruitment of these industry experts in 2021 will help to support the continued expansion of the business and strengthen the already fantastic EK Automation team further, equipping them with an invaluable asset for their next phase in the development of the business.

The focus of the business is now centred on research and development of their transport robotics systems. EK Automation are working intensively on the possibilities of artificial intelligence in order to gradually expand the autonomy of their transport robots in the future, whilst continuing to offer their customers reliable, cost-efficient and safe automated solutions. Right now, the global pandemic has shown

just how important robust processes are in production and EK Automation want to be there to support businesses looking to increase their efficiency regardless of their industry.

With this in mind it has been important for EK Automation to continue to be at the forefront of technical innovation and their new appointments will help to continue to push their progress in this sector. Their latest technology release, which EK are excited to introduce, is the VARIO MOVE range of automated guidance vehicles. Designed for the sustainable optimisation of transport and material flow, these fully automated transport robots include a variety of different handling devices offering safe, efficient and powerful industrial AGVs with maximum flexibility. The combination of their maintenance-friendly design and long lifecycle ensures sustainable costs and competitive advantages for customers in the long run – it's no wonder EK are thrilled to be launching them.

EK Automation are proud to be able to offer their innovative automated solutions and industry guidance as part of a tailor-made service based on the needs of their customers. And, as one of the European market leaders in the AGV field, it's no wonder why they have already installed more than 10,000 vehicles in more than 1,000 systems worldwide! ■

