

# Automated storage for producing 31 tonnes of savoury snacks daily

Pretzel and snack cracker manufacturer Boehli integrates logistics with production via automated storage solutions and the Easy WMS warehouse management system.

Country: **France** | Sector: **food & beverage**



## CHALLENGES

- Connect and integrate production with logistics to optimise snack manufacturing and storage.
- Increase flows of goods to keep up with the production pace.
- Simultaneously manage traceability of raw materials and finished products.

## SOLUTIONS

- AS/RS with a double-deep stacker crane.
- Automated Pallet Shuttle with a stacker crane.
- Easy WMS warehouse management system.

## BENEFITS

- Digital integration of Easy WMS with ERP and MES software for just-in-time supply to production lines.
- Logistics operations designed to facilitate the daily production of 31 tonnes of pretzels, snack crackers and Alsatian specialities.
- Complete and real-time traceability of over 4,000 pallets containing raw materials, finished goods and packaging.



Boehli, based in Alsace (north-eastern France), specialises in snack production, particularly baked goods like pretzels and breadsticks. Founded in Gundershoffen (France), the company is known for its quality, use of local ingredients and traditional processes combined with modern technology. Its goal is to ensure the freshness and flavour of its products.

» **Founded: 1935**

» **No. of employees: 80**

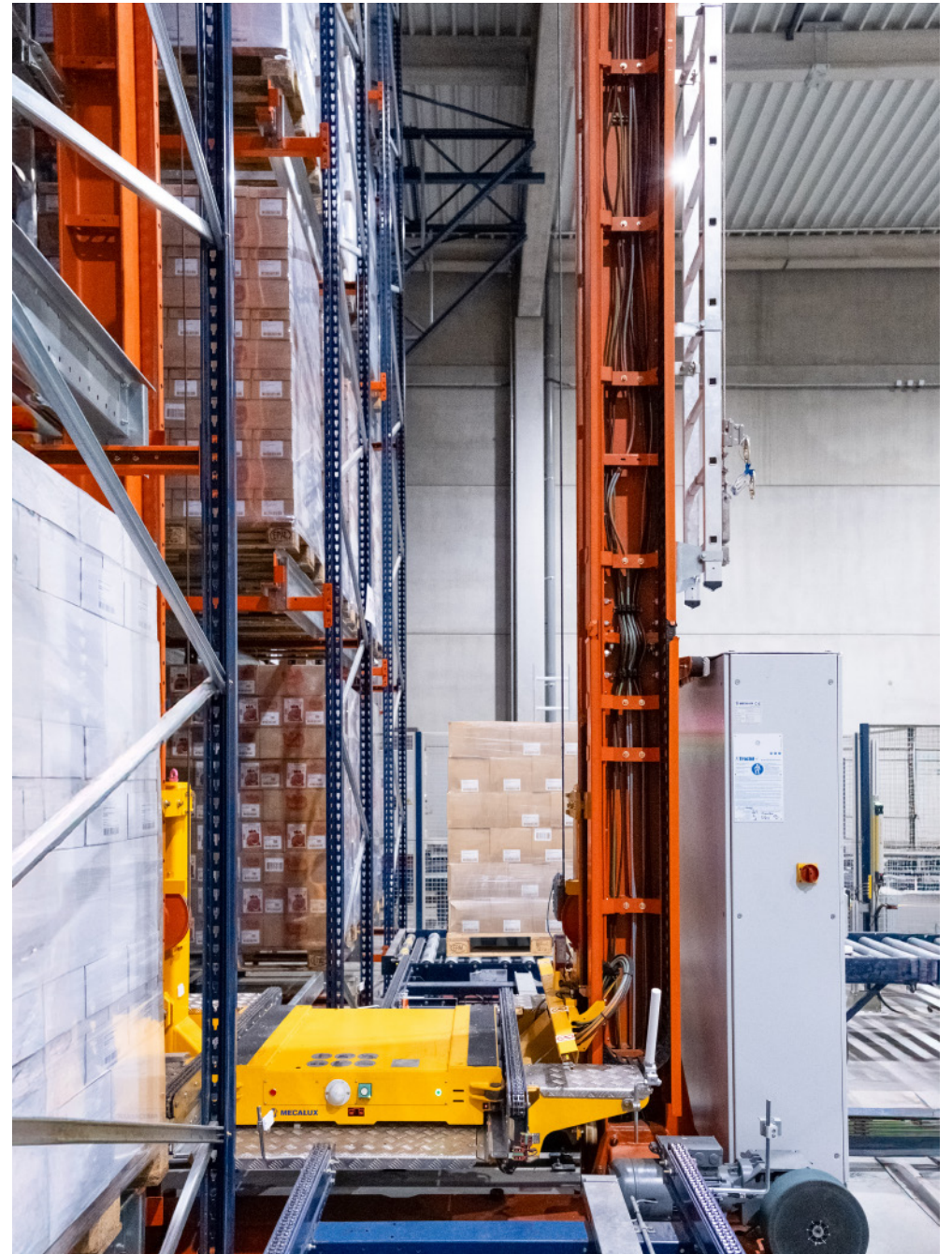
» **International presence: 22 countries**

» **Production capacity: 31 tonnes of pretzels and snack crackers per day**

Headquartered in Gundershoffen, in northern Alsace, Boehli has established itself as a leading snack brand in France and Europe, known for its pretzels and breadsticks. Its factory, opened in 2000, produces over 31 tonnes of snack crackers daily. This was achieved by integrating seven production lines with two automated storage and retrieval systems (AS/RSs), all supervised by Mecalux's Easy WMS warehouse management system.

"We decided to automate storage because our old warehousing area was running low on capacity, and we no longer had enough space to process our orders," says Raphael Wurtz, Production Plant Manager at Boehli.

Thirty-nine percent of Boehli's sales go to exports, primarily to countries such as Germany, Denmark, Japan, South Korea, the UAE and Australia. Wurtz highlights the importance of storage technology in serving these markets: "Automation allows us to optimise flows and increase our order shipment capacity. Operators no longer have to travel around the warehouse for picking — the automated systems bring the pallets to them. Additionally, this technology has helped us save storage space and avoid manual pallet handling during putaway and shipping."







### Two integrated AS/RSs

Boehli's facility is equipped with two robotic storage solutions from Mecalux that handle the pretzel manufacturer's high production pace. The Automated Pallet Shuttle with a stacker crane houses finished products, while another 80-metre-long AS/RS accommodates raw materials and packaging. The combination of these two automated systems has maximised performance and leveraged available space, providing a total storage capacity of 4,054 pallets.

"Thanks to automation, we can manage and dispatch an average of 360 pallets daily, including raw materials, finished goods and the packaging required for our operations," says Wurtz.

Boehli's production area is located in a building behind the warehouse. To connect the two facilities, Mecalux set up infeed and outfeed stations at the rear, linking logistics operations with manufacturing through automated guided vehicles (AGVs). These machines deliver

The combination of Mecalux's two AS/RSs provides a capacity for 4,054 pallets



raw materials and packaging to the manufacturing area and transport production batches from the factory to the warehouse, ensuring a smooth, efficient workflow. At the front of the warehouse, an automatic transfer car guided by Easy WMS moves finished goods to two possible destinations: the pick station or the preload area.

The pick station — designed to fill up to three orders at once — operates according to the goods-to-person method. This minimises unnecessary travel and improves warehouse picker ergonomics. In the preload area, the transfer car organises and accurately sorts pallets, placing them in one of nine flow (live) channels by customer, order or assigned route. This sequenced operation speeds up and streamlines the vehicle loading process, reducing wait times and releasing each shipment in the optimal order for distribution.

Wurtz emphasises the importance of the automated systems in this final phase of Boehli's logistics processes: "The stacker cranes, conveyors and transfer car facilitate the continuous, error-free movement of pallets to their destinations: the pick station and flow channels in the shipping area."



*"Automation has allowed us to optimise flows and increase our order shipment capacity."*

**Raphael Wurtz**  
Production Plant Manager, Boehli



### Logistics automation for Industry 4.0

"We consulted several suppliers specialising in storage systems, and in the end, we chose Mecalux because they proposed the solution that best fit our logistics needs. We're very satisfied with our decision," says Wurtz.

The two AS/RSs that Boehli implemented are vital for achieving a daily production of 31 tonnes of snacks. They enable the performance level needed to keep up with the production pace and optimise operational efficiency, ensuring the supply chain runs smoothly. With these automated solutions, Boehli can meet market demand while maintaining high product quality standards.

**AGVs transport raw materials and packaging between the factory and the warehouse**





### Logistics integrated with production

Connecting the warehouse with the factory was one of the major challenges of this project. To do this, Mecalux **integrated Easy WMS with Boehli's ERP software and its manufacturing execution system (MES)**, guaranteeing just-in-time supply to the snack production lines.

Mecalux's Easy WMS software also **supervises AS/RS operations and movements**. It organises product inflows/outflows and coordinates order picking. Every time a pallet containing finished goods arrives at the warehouse, Easy WMS receives an advance shipping notice (ASN) from the ERP. It then assigns a location to each item based on its characteristics and turnover.

Thanks to digitalisation, Boehli has achieved full traceability of over 4,000 stored pallets containing raw materials, finished goods and packaging. This capability is vital for companies in the food supply chain.

The automatic transfer car sequences outbound goods in the flow channels, organising them by customer, order or transport route

