

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Production meets Logistics – Key factors for the connected factory of the future**

*Bad Mergentheim/Main-Tauber-Kreis.* Whether in procurement, storage or even in transport, logistics is characterised by wide-ranging and at the same time highly complex processes. Even in production, it is important to optimise processes, reduce costs and ensure continuous supply. At the event “Production meets Logistics”, the experts at Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG showed how synergy can be achieved through the interplay of innovative technologies, automation and robotics. On Tuesday, 23rd April 2024, around 40 participants came together at Würth Industrial Park, which is considered as one of the most modern logistics centres for industrial supply in Europe.

As we enter the era of Industry 4.0, companies are faced with fast-changing markets. It is thereby no longer just automation and digitalisation that concern the industrial sector. Integrated networking, artificial intelligence, cyber-physical systems, collaboration, robotics, big data as well as many other market trends are impacting and shaping the factory of the future. In order to keep production efficient and to ensure that everything is available at the right time and at the right place, everything must be organised seamlessly in (intra)logistics – up to the last metre. It is all the more important to rethink existing processes and implement future technologies in a more intelligent manner.

The industry leaders from the region that are active in logistics, production and engineering as well as in process and lean management participated in discussions about the specific tools that help in achieving a new level of value addition along the interface between production and logistics. Following the introductory speech by Erkut Yesiltepe, Head of National Sales at Würth Industrie Service, Frank Freudenberger, Logistics management at Würth Industrie Service delivered an expert lecture on the automation strategy of the C-Parts expert in Logistics. The vision is to achieve a degree of automation of 80% of all the processes that can be currently standardised in logistics by 2030. In the next discussions, the speakers shared their views on technological advancements. Heinz-Joachim Schulte, Founder and CEO of OEE-Institute®, discussed effective strategies to optimise production processes in his presentation titled “OEE in focus: Improvement of system performance”. He emphasised the importance of preventive maintenance, accurate production planning, optimised workflows as well as application of automation and digital

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technologies to increase production speed and reduce manual interventions. It is particularly noteworthy that the OEE-Institute® can digitalise every machine in mere minutes without installation and without interrupting production, thus enabling quick access to relevant data. Regular employee trainings, safety measures and attractive work conditions are essential. "An OEE analysis is definitely worthwhile, as it can help in doubling the productivity of many machines and improving the operating result by up to 60%", said Heinz-Joachim Schulte.

There is no doubt that connected systems ensure excellent progress and pave the way in the direction of Industry 4.0. During the tour of the logistics centre, the linchpin of Würth Industrie Service, as well as one of the most modern logistics centres for industrial supply in Europe, the participants gained a personal insight into the automation and innovation transforming into reality. In an area of over 65,000 square meters, they visited not only the storage and logistics levels but also saw the construction progress of the new high-bay warehouse. Moreover, interested participants also gained insights into the IT systems that are involved here along with the transport management, which ensure together every day that goods reach from point A to point B with the help of the teamwork of around 480 employees. Self-learning robots, professional camera inspection systems, autonomous transport systems as well as the high-bay and shuttle warehouses are used for perfectly coordinated processes. In cooperation with W. Gessmann GmbH, a supplier of robotics and system solutions, Würth Industrie Service presented a mobile ORSY®mat that carries out material supply right up to the workstation. Thus, automation and artificial intelligence promise not only a significant increase in productivity, but also offer relief to the employees. Along with individual workstations, the C-Parts expert also ensures optimised workplace ergonomics with the help of its wide range of exoskeletons. Regardless of whether it is for the knee, arm, wrist or back, use of external support and assistance systems enables a boost in ergonomics for more comfortable working. Other solutions were also seen in the World of Würth Industrie Service – a space to experience. During a tour, the participants were able to get a clear picture of the company and gained closer insights into the C-parts management, including product and system solutions for the manufacturing industry.

## Photo material

### Captions:



Photo 1: Production meets Logistics.jpg

Caption 1: Around 40 industry leaders from the region that are active in logistics, production and engineering as well as in process and lean management gathered at the "Production meets Logistics" event at the Würth Industrial Park in Bad Mergentheim.

Photo 1 source: Eva Kugler, Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG



Photo 2: Logistics tour.jpg

Caption 2: During a logistics tour, the participants were inspired by a wide range of exoskeletons for optimized workplace ergonomics.

Photo source 2: Eva Kugler, Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG

#### Brief profile of Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG

Within the Würth Group, Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG is responsible for supplying to the industrial sector. Since its foundation in the year 1999, the company is located at the Würth Industrial Park in Bad Mergentheim, Germany with over 1,800 employees.

As a one-stop C-Parts provider, the company offers its customers a specialised product range with over 1,400,000 items: from screws and tools to connection and fastening technology, technical chemicals as well as occupational safety solutions. In addition to the extensive standard product range, the strength of the company lies in its customer-specific, logistical and dispositive supply and service concepts as well as special parts. Under the service brand "CPS® - C-Product Service", the company offers modular solutions customised as per the customer's requirements. These consumption-based and demand-based systems streamline the processes for purchase, logistics and quality assurance while enabling the procurement of small parts in a cost-optimised manner. Logistic and dispositive services such as shelving systems that use scanners or a just-in-time supply using Kanban bin systems play a significant role in increasing productivity.