

Innovation for a booming market

OPEX® Corporation, a leading provider of innovative warehouse automation solutions worldwide, has made enhancements to Sure Sort®, an automated put wall and one of its most popular products, to better meet warehouse customers' needs. "Our Sure Sort solution is ideal for both small businesses looking to cost-effectively take the first step into warehouse automation and large fulfilment operations looking to streamline processes," said Alex Stevens, Vice President of Warehouse Automation at OPEX. "It is an efficient, scalable system that reduces the large footprint and cost associated with traditional sorters and provides customers with a fast return on investment."

Since 1975, OPEX systems have provided performance-enhancing workflow solutions and cost-effective results to thousands of organizations worldwide. In addition to warehouse automation solutions, OPEX also offers document and mail automation. Their satisfied customer list includes fulfilment operations, distribution centers, financial services, healthcare, government, utilities, service bureaus, insurance, and educational institutions. OPEX has developed Sure Sort automation to offer customers a cost-effective entry into automated parcel sorting systems. "We took our core document and mail automation technology and enhanced it," Mr. Stevens explains. "Our experience in that field has given us in-depth knowhow of the pitfalls of paper handling: paper is hard to handle. So we took that technology, and that experience, and made it applicable for warehouse automation."

The Sure Sort® small-item robotic sorting system can be scaled, sized, and customized in the small footprint of a single-pass put wall. It quickly and accurately processes up to 2,400 items per hour with limited labour. "It's also very useful for returns processing," Mr. Stevens points out. "As the system is compact and modular, you can adapt it to address specific, one-off sorting

challenges, and once you've solved that, move it on to a different job. And it fits right into the systems you already have in place."

The Sure Sort equipment can handle items as small as two inches in length and width and can support products as large as 15 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 6 inches high thanks to the new modifications OPEX just made. The company increased the height capability to accommodate taller items, such as a standard shoe box. "Our customers discovered that if we made it taller they could process 11 percent more items through machines, on average," says Mr. Stevens. "So it made a lot of sense to do this."

OPEX announced the Sure Sort solution enhancements on the back of a very

hectic year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The retail market has witnessed a 28% surge in e-commerce activities and warehouse automation is a top priority. "The primary driver is the need for fewer employees in warehouses to meet safety and social distancing norms accompanied by the need to ramp up operations to meet increased online order volume," says Mr. Stevens. "Also there's a labour shortage throughout the developed world, so companies are trying to figure out how to supplement their workforce and make them more effective. What's been a cool thing for us to see is that people genuinely enjoy working on our machines: our technology doesn't only ensure process improvements but also makes jobs more enjoyable."



OPEX
SURE SORT

OPEX Corporation

Website: www.opex.com

