

# Automated storage for producing 34 tons of savory 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 optimize 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 34 tons of pretzels, snack crackers, and Alsatian specialties.
- Complete and real-time traceability of over 4,000 pallets containing raw materials, finished goods and packaging.



Boehli, based in Alsace (northeastern France), specializes 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 flavor of its products.

» **Founded: 1935**

» **No. of employees: 80**

» **International presence: 22 countries**

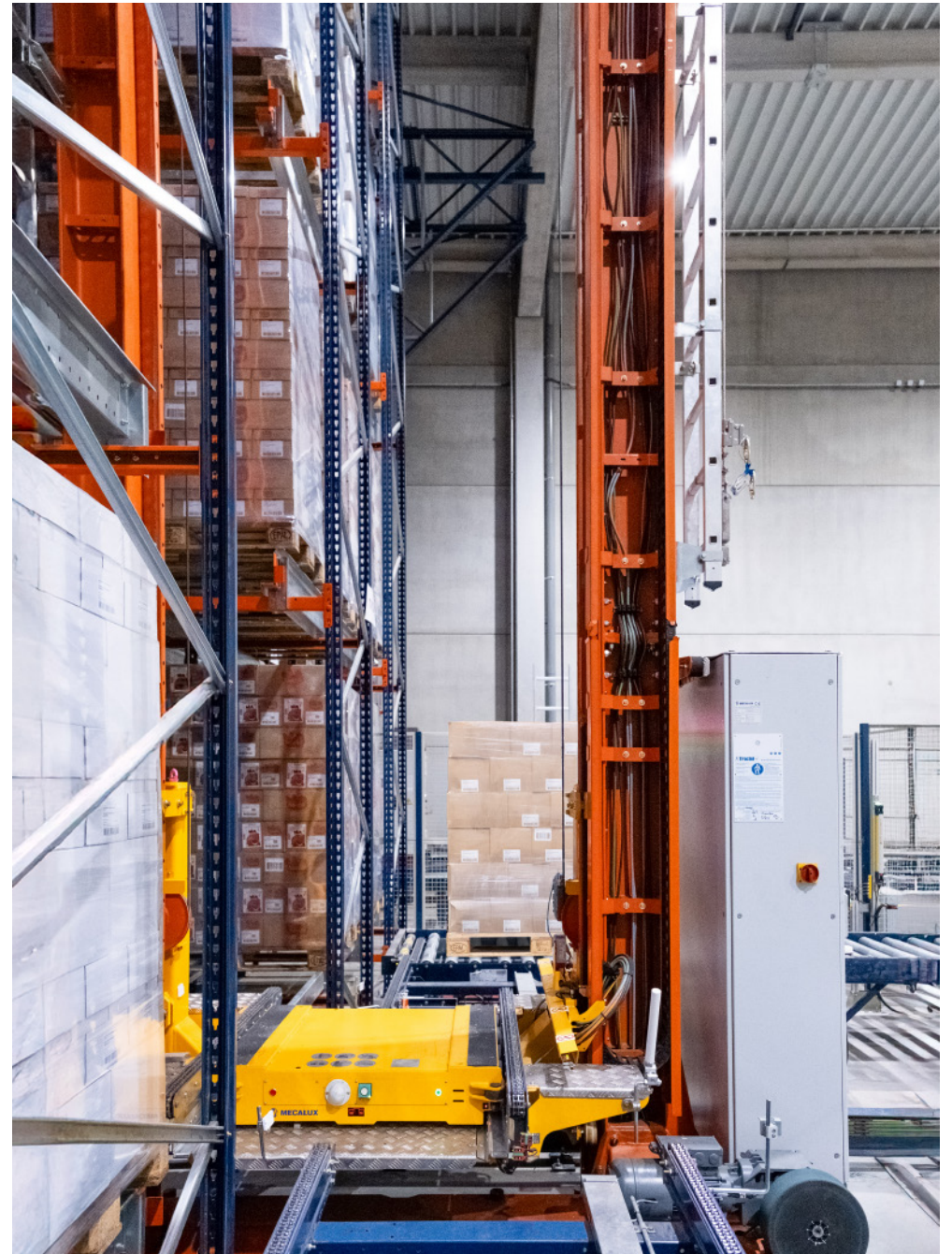
» **Production capacity: 34 tons of pretzels and snack crackers per day**



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 34 tons 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 optimize flows and increase our order shipment capacity. Associates 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 262.5-foot-long AS/RS accommodates raw materials and packaging. The combination of these two automated systems has maximized performance and leveraged available space, providing a total storage capacity of 4,054 pallets.

"Thanks to automation, we can manage and ship 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 raw materials and packaging to the manufac-

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



turing 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 minimizes unnecessary travel and improves warehouse picker ergonomics.

In the preload area, the transfer car organizes and accurately sorts pallets, placing them in one of nine flow channels by customer, order, or assigned route. This sequenced operation speeds up and streamlines the truck loading process, reducing wait times and releasing each shipment in the optimal order for distribution.

Wurtz emphasizes 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 optimize flows and increase our order shipment capacity."*

**Raphael Wurtz**  
Production Plant Manager, Boehli



#### Logistics automation for Industry 4.0

"We consulted several suppliers specializing 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 34 tons of snacks. They enable the performance level needed to keep up with the production pace and optimize 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 organizes 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 digitalization, 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, organizing them by customer, order, or transportation route

