

# Semi-automated storage for 1,000 pallets of bottled oil daily

The semi-automated Pallet Shuttle system enables Edible Oils Limited to speed up operations, optimize space, and enhance customer service.

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



## CHALLENGES

- Increase efficiency in order picking and dispatch, primarily for UK supermarkets.
- Manage limited warehouse space amid growing demand for bottled oil.

## SOLUCIONES

- Pallet Shuttle Racking System.
- Selective Pallet Racks..

## BENEFITS

- Semi-automated storage for 1,000 pallets per day.
- Reduced reliance on external warehouses, saving costs and enabling faster deliveries.

Edible Oils Limited (EOL) is a producer and distributor of bottled oils and food fats, supplying both branded and private-label products to major distributors in the UK and across Europe. EOL is a joint venture between Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) and Princes Group plc.

- » **Founded: 2005**
- » **No. of employees: 80**
- » **Storage area: 40,903 ft<sup>2</sup>**

Edible Oils Limited (EOL) is one of Europe's leading suppliers of bottled oils and food fats, responsible for well-known brands such as Crisp 'N Dry, Mazola, Iliada, Flora, and Olivio. The company recently upgraded its logistics center in Erith (southeast London) by combining two Mecalux storage systems: the semi-automated Pallet Shuttle and selective pallet racks. This solution provides a capacity of 5,000-plus finished-product pallets, increases productivity, and optimizes available space.

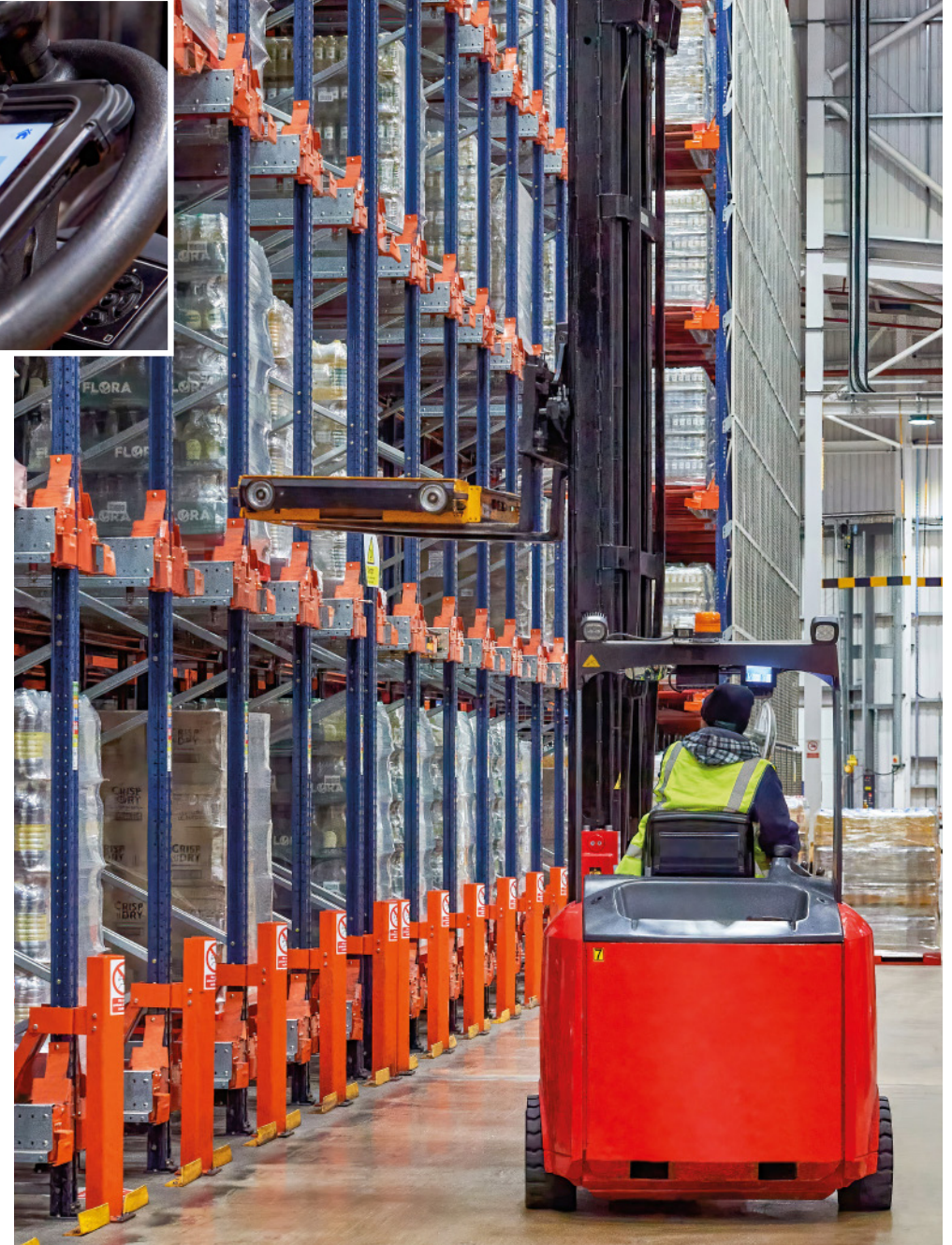
"We were looking for a solution that offered us the best balance between efficiency and cost," says Matt Loft, Logistics Manager at EOL. "Mecalux presented the option that best met our needs, while also offering a competitive price."



### EOL warehouse associates send instructions to the motorized shuttles via tablets

Before implementing the project, EOL had limited space to manage 2,500 pallets on selective pallet racks. "We needed a setup that would allow us to make better use of space, manage around 80 SKUs, and streamline order picking to satisfy growing demand," says Loft.

The solution involved installing a system that combines high-density storage with faster access to unit loads: the semi-automated Pallet Shuttle. In this area, EOL houses approximately 2,500 pallets of bottled oil in two racking blocks. Standing up to 42.7' m high, they feature six levels and hold 13 pallets deep. One block operates in line with the FIFO method (first in, first out), while the other is LIFO-based (last in, first out).





EOL warehouse associates run Mecalux's warehouse control system from a tablet to send commands to the motorized shuttles. These vehicles move pallets autonomously within the storage lanes, freeing staff to focus on higher-value tasks, such as order picking and dispatch.

To complement the area operated with the Pallet Shuttle system, Mecalux installed selective pallet racks up to 32.8' high, pro-

viding capacity for an additional 2,903 unit loads. This system facilitates direct access to goods, making order picking fast and organized. According to Loft, the new racking area helps EOL "maximize capacity and fully leverage warehouse space. It also enables quick access to the widest range of products."

#### Higher daily productivity

"We handle around 1,000 pallets per day:

500 come from our production lines, and the other 500 are shipped, mainly to UK supermarkets," says Loft. "Semi-automation gives us greater agility because it allows pallets to be moved automatically, speeding up storage and dispatch operations for bottled oil."

By combining the throughput of the motorized shuttles with associate-led tasks, EOL's workflow has become more dynamic and efficient. Loft also notes that the new storage systems "have reduced EOL's reliance on external warehouses, resulting in significant cost savings and faster service for customers."

#### A more agile, cost-efficient facility

Pairing the Pallet Shuttle with selective racks has increased EOL's capacity to meet growing demand for its bottled oil. The solutions have optimized space, accelerated pallet handling, and enabled a continuous workflow. Moreover, inventory control

is more accurate, and order fulfillment times are shorter, contributing to more efficient service and lower operating costs.

"We're very satisfied with the performance of the new storage setup. It fully meets our expectations," says Loft.



*"Mecalux presented the option that best met our logistics needs."*

**Matt Loft**  
Logistics Manager, EOL

