

Case Study: Saddle Creek



3PL MEDICAL CASE STUDY

Overview & Challenge

Saddle Creek Logistics Services provides omnichannel fulfillment and distribution services for clients throughout the United States. One client in Texas was looking for a more efficient way to provide e-commerce solutions for medical apparel and supplies that are shipped to consumers as well as major hospitals and universities.

This client was going through a period of considerable growth and experienced upwards of three times their normal order volume compared to previous years. The team at Saddle Creek evaluated solutions that would scale and support its client's business growth as demand spiked and needs changed.

"We were looking at mobile robotic solutions that had a quick return on investment, and something we felt could be incorporated easily into our operations," said Tony Hollis, Director of Technology and Innovation.

The Saddle Creek team worked with the team at Locus to implement a solution that would increase productivity and reduce expenses.

In this day and age, with as hard as it is to get labor, having these robots has helped us be a lot more efficient

Cody Jones
Director of Fulfillment

Critical Reasons for Automation at Saddle Creek

Reduce Labor Needs

Reduce Operating Costs

Support Client Growth





3PL doubles productivity to fulfill medical supply orders and prepares for rapid grow.





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and prepares for rapid growth with robots

Results

"Implementation went very well. The transition to using the Locus platform was quite easy," said Tony. Cody Johnson, Director of Fulfillment, added, "We really got ramped up in about two months. Locus was onsite, they were a great partner to work with because they listened to what we needed rather than just making us work around their solution."

Locus deployed autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) along with a suite of actionable reporting tools and dashboards. This installation included a systems integration with the WMS and network, a solution design of the facility and workflow, and the implementation of the robots including navigation and pick testing.

The Saddle Creek team more than doubled productivity and significantly reduced congestion on the warehouse floor, resulting in faster fulfillment of client orders. The ability to scale is especially valuable – allowing them to accommodate unexpected demand increases as much as 30 to 40% above projections and still meet service level agreements (SLAs).

"As we moved away from the pick carts, the associates really enjoyed using the Locus Robotics platform," said Tony on the successful adoption by warehouse associates. "It's easy for the associates to train and learn, and be effective on day 1."

The Saddle Creek team is now preparing for its client's growth, expecting the operational footprint to expand and the number of robots assisting workers to increase by 85%. They're also reviewing plans to leverage this automation solution for other clients in the multitenant building.

Robotic Automation Installation

- 1 Systems Integration
- 2 Solution Design
- 3 Implementation
- 4 Continuous Evaluation

Locus is one of many solutions that we have integrated to help reduce our labor needs, reduce our operating costs, and better support our clients

Corey Johnson Operations Manager





The ability to get a newer associate in the department and get them up to 100% productivity standard is cut in half Chris LaRose Senior Director of Operations

The retention has been much better just because they're not having to walk as much. A normal picker that picks on a cart may walk up to 10 miles a day.

Cody Jones Director of Fulfillment

