



Vertical Storage and Retrieval Systems Help Meet Cost, Ergonomic & Efficiency Goals

Features and Benefits

- Floor Space Savings of 77%
- 56% Improvement in Productivity
- Reduced Energy Consumption
- Improved Overall Retrieval

Industry Group: Automated Storage/Retrieval Systems (AS/RS)

“When we consolidated the lab operations, we looked for ways to improve the use and efficiency of the space,” said Lewis, Sr. Ops Mgr



When this health care and health maintenance organization decided to consolidate its Mid-Atlantic regional testing laboratory operations, management looked at alternative approaches to storing specimens, biopsy slides, tissue blocks, reagents and laboratory supplies. It's a very large operation, and prior to the consolidation, regional testing was conducted in four separate facilities. There was constant duplication in ordering supplies, and due to manual storage and retrieval, there were times when items were stored incorrectly. Overall this old method of operation had a large impact on efficiency, productivity and accuracy.

The laboratory installed one workstation consisting of two dual-access vertical carousels to store biopsy slides and tissue blocks. The shelving that used to store these items previously occupied 1,200 square feet of floor space. Two new carousels now occupy only 247 square feet, thus a floor space savings of 80%. A refrigerated vertical carousel was also installed to store reagents used in testing operations. This was put in place next to three vertical lift modules that store laboratory supplies such as gloves, masks and lab coats. This produced a space savings of 74% by consolidating the materials and using 712 square feet of floor space.

Now the retrieval process is simple, straightforward and a lot less strenuous. Technicians are able to key in the appropriate rack number into each system. The proper rack is automatically delivered to the vertical carousel's ergonomically positioned pick window. The dual-access of the vertical carousels allow technicians to retrieve samples from either the first or second story of the lab, further improving overall efficiency of the system.

In addition to improved inventory control and management, manpower productivity has improved as well. From six technicians spending one and a half hours ordering supplies per week to just one specialist using four hours per week, the lab saw a 56% improvement in productivity.

"The installation of the vertical carousels together with inventory management software, solved the problems we were originally faced with," said Erwin J. Cabling, Materials Coordinator.

kardexremstar

Kardex Remstar

41 Eisenhower Drive

Westbrook, ME 04092

800-639-5805

info@kardexremstar.com

www.kardexremstar.com