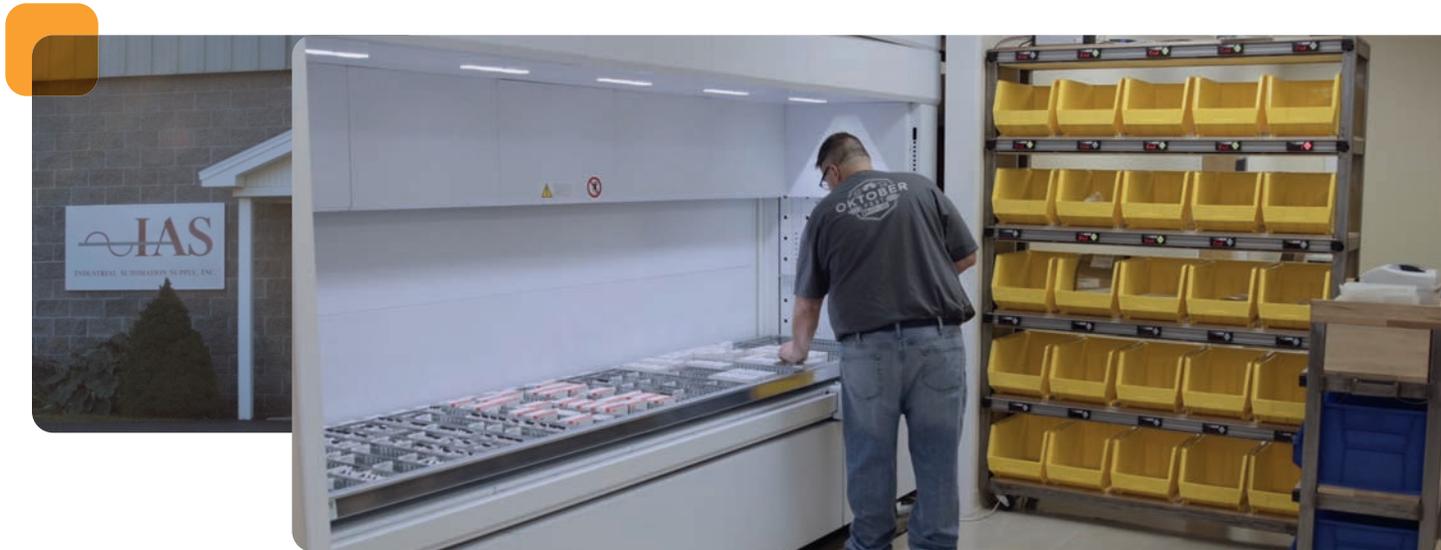


Industrial Automation save warehouse space, boosts picking efficiency with Modula vertical lift module



CASE SUMMARY

Industrial Automation Supply is a distributor of electrical products that was growing and running out of space in its warehouse to store its parts. The way parts were stored and retrieved was inefficient and made it difficult to ship items to customers the same day as they were picked, which was an operational goal. By installing a Modula VLM, they not only were able to consolidate storage to fit their space, they also increased their picking speed and accuracy and could continue growing without disruption.

THE ISSUE

Diminishing room to store items, struggles to ship items on time

As Industrial Automation Supply (IAS), based in Portland, Maine, distributes electrical products, ranging from power supplies to terminal blocks. As its business grew, IAS began to run out of warehouse storage space. The problem was becoming acute enough that they thought they would have to purchase a larger warehouse. They also were having trouble keeping up with demand and sending out products the same day they were ordered – an operational benchmark. As with traditional warehouses using shelving systems, workers had to retrieve parts by walking throughout the facility to find the desired part. But as more and more orders came in, the manual-retrieval method was showing its limitations.

1

THE SOLUTION

New Modula VLM dramatically reduces storage footprint while doubling picking speed

IAS bought a single Modula VLM, but that was enough to solve the company's problems. It was able to store 85% of products previously housed on shelving units on a footprint of only 96 square feet. So there was no need to move to a different warehouse for space reasons.

Production also benefited. By combing the VLM with Modula's put-to-light batch picking system and dual-delivery options, the company's operators could pick the items needed for multiple orders at a single time. Overall picking speed was doubled. With the more efficient warehouse environment, workers could focus on other tasks.

Besides the increased speed and accuracy, IAS leaders were surprised by the ease of use and short learning curve of Modula's automated storage systems. "I would absolutely recommend the Modula VLM," says Chris Coughlin, Head of Shipping and Receiving. "It has enabled me to do my job easier and enabled me to do a lot more." Owner Chris LeBel is delighted with the purchase: "It's a great product and it's been key in terms of our future growth. We can do an awful lot more, a lot better, with a lot less."



"I would absolutely recommend the Modula VLM, it has enabled me to do my job easier and enabled me to do a lot more." —Chris Coughlin, Head of Shipping and Receiving

"It's a great product and it's been key in terms of our future growth. We can do an awful lot more, a lot better, with a lot less." —Chris LeBel, Owner of IAS

KEY BENEFITS

- 85% of products stored in a single VLM with a 96-square-foot footprint
- Picking time and accuracy increased by 100%
- Space saving and productivity eliminated need for new warehouse
- Orders fulfilled the day they're placed due to faster, more accurate throughput

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Number of Units	One
Model	Modula MX25-4, 300/BID
Bay Type	Internal, dual-delivery
Trays	37, 122.05" wide by 27.75" deep
Tray Capacity	551 lbs
VLM Height	14' 2"

SOFTWARE

- Modula WMS Base, integrated with company ERP system

OPTIONS INCLUDED

- automatic door
- tray partitions
- sliding Copilot console
- put-to-light batch picking system



About the customer

Based in Portland, Maine, Industrial Automation Supply distributes electrical controls and automation components, primarily serving original equipment manufacturers in New England.

About Modula

Modula designs and produces automatic storage systems that dramatically boost productivity and accuracy, reduce storage spaces requirements, and enhance worker safety and job satisfaction. The only U.S. manufacturer of vertical lift modules, Modula also offers horizontal carousels, warehouse management systems, and a host of accessories that make order picking quick and easy. Established in 1987, Modula has nine branches worldwide, a network of 100 distributors, and factories in the United States, Italy, and China. More information can be found at [modula.us](https://www.modula.us).