

# Large distribution center for hanging garments

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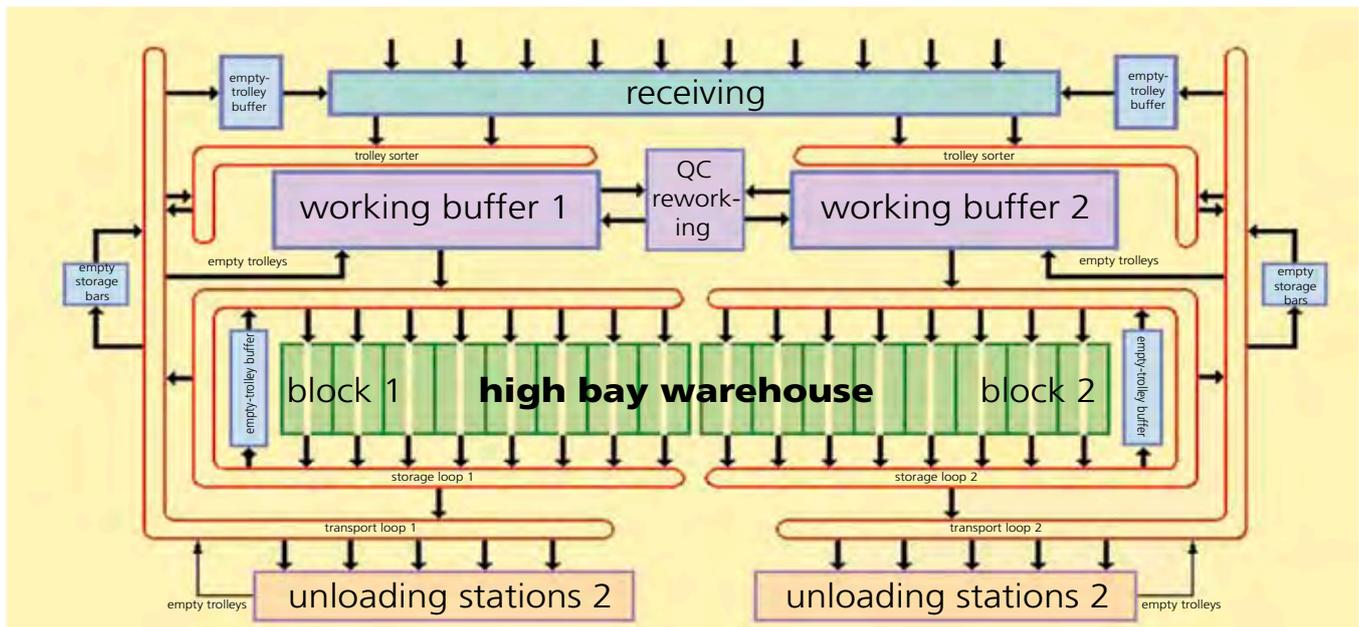
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Case Description



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Next Distribution LTD handle the logistics services for Next Retail. They carry out the whole supply logistics for approx. 340 stores and their mail order operation.

## Design criteria

The objective was to find an economic solution for the on-time supply of the stores and the mail order operation, in order to keep the stock available for the picking warehouse in a way that it is possible to retrieve homogenous units at any time. The high storage volume required an unconventional concept, in order to keep the costs at a minimum.



## The solution

The psb concept represents a unique combination of a high capacity overhead conveying system with a modified high bay storage and retrieval system. The garments on storage bars are located automatically in a purpose-built double-deep racking structure with 24 storage aisles. The overhead conveyor system, which provides the infrastructure around the distribution center, is operated semi-automatically.

The especially designed storage bars are a decisive interface: In the overhead conveyor system they are transported on standard trolleys. In the high bay warehouse they are retrieved from the trolleys by automatic *runloader*<sup>®</sup> stacker cranes with 2 special handling devices and located in a double-deep stationary suspension racking structure.

Compared with conventional storage systems, the applied system technology allows the DC to operate with a minimum number of operatives at comparatively low investment costs for the system components, the building and the building services.

Customer: Next Distribution Ltd.  
South Elmsall, NR Pontefract / UK

System: Overhead conveying system, 24 *runloader*<sup>®</sup> stacker cranes with two handling devices, control system and *selektron*<sup>®</sup> Warehouse Management System (WMS)