



Safran elevates aircraft maintenance operations with 7 Modula vertical lift modules



CASE SUMMARY

Safran Aircraft Engine Services Brussels provides parts and service to aircraft engines. It wanted to bring parts closer to the engineers working on units to speed up the process and also wanted to save space, reduce picking errors, maintain needed inventory levels and trace the delivery of parts. Manual systems were impeding all of these goals, so Safran acquired several Modula units over time to address all of its shortcomings. As a result, it reduced its storage needs by 80 percent and eliminated picking errors. Security was greatly enhanced because Safran could trace the delivery of parts throughout its operation.

THE ISSUE

Aircraft maintenance service lagged in efficiency and security

Safran Aircraft Engine Services Brussels, based at the Brussels airport, is a fully owned subsidiary of French-owned Safran Aircraft Engines. With 250 employees, it specializes in Maintenance, Repairs and Operations (MRO) services and employs engineers on site. These engineers typically needed parts from Safran's inventory to execute the repairs and Safran wanted to ensure those parts could be delivered quickly. For the same reason, expensive, delicate repair equipment had to be properly stored.

With more than 10,000 parts to track, the manual system was cumbersome and prone to errors. Without checks, those parts could also end up being taken by those not authorized to use them. So it was important not just to speed up processes, but enhance the traceability of parts and tools as they moved around the facility.

THE SOLUTION

Installing 7 Modula VLMs to speed productivity, track flow of parts

Starting with a few Modula VLMs, Safran's operations managers saw the advantages they represented and added more, including one with padded trays to store large, but delicate tools. To guard against theft and enhance traceability, the operation also installed cameras and software to record images of trays as they were opened during the day to track the flow of parts. The system worked in conjunction with Safran's ERP.

The engine maintenance facility ended up with 7 Modula VLMs and was able to handle up to 500 order lines per day as a result. At the same time, the floor space dedicated to storage was reduced by 80 percent.



KEY BENEFITS

- Picking errors virtually eliminated
- Productivity enhanced – up to 500 lines per day
- Space saved – 80 percent reduction in storage footprint
- Enhanced security due to enclosed units, limited operator access and additional camera integration

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Number of Units	7
Model	3 ML75D, 4 MC25D
Bay type/quantity	External and internal, single delivery
Trays	From 52 to 148 trays per unit, 98.42 x 33.74" (2,500 x 857mm) and 161.41 x 33.74 inches (4,100 x 857mm), holding between 551 and 1,653 lbs (250-750 kg) each
VLM Height	25.25' and 25.91' (7,700 and 7,900 mm)

SOFTWARE

- Modula WMS Premium
- Modula WMS Driver

OPTIONS INCLUDED

- laser pointer
- sliding Copilot console
- barcode reader
- label printer
- automatic closing door



About the customer

Safran Aircraft Engine Services Brussels, based at the Brussels airport, is a fully owned subsidiary of French-owned Safran Aircraft Engines. With 250 employees, it specializes in Maintenance, Repairs and Operations (MRO) services for the company's aircraft engines.

About Modula

Modula designs and produces automated storage systems that dramatically boost productivity and accuracy, reduce storage space 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.