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Smart Automation Solutions

Press Release – Lonate Pozzolo, 6 April 2021

The next generation of autonomous mobile robotics to automate small parcel sortation

GENI-Ant™, the Fives' AMR-based smart parcel sorter was further improved to increase flexibility and efficiency

Fives developed its **ultimate parcel sorter based on AMR, named GENI-Ant™**, to help CEP operators solve how to sort non-compatible or irregularly shaped parcels automatically.

In 2019, the **GENI-Ant™** was showcased at Parcel + Post EXPO in Amsterdam for the first time.

In 2020, the Coronavirus pandemic had a major impact on consumption patterns. The demand for home deliveries reached new record levels and the small parcel volumes increased up to unprecedented peaks.

As a result, distribution centers have been receiving more and more shipments consisting of irregularly sized or poorly packed items that are difficult to handle automatically, such as polybags, padded envelopes and other odd-shaped packages, most of them containing just one small item.

In this context, Fives' teams worked hard to **develop further the GENI-Ant™ design** by integrating specific innovations and improvements

Most innovative features

The **GENI-Ant™** incorporates two independent sorting units, each of which can be equipped with different types of belt, depending on the product to be handled.

Beside the flat belt conveyor, Fives included a new belt model specially designed for unstable, fragile items and products with uneven surfaces: this innovative belt features edges and gauges that prevent objects from moving or rolling, **offering total control on the item during transportation and sortation.**

Different available heights have been added: the robot can be from 800 mm up to 1.3 m high to allow discharging into containers and chutes or onto horizontal conveyor belts, depending on the application.

The fleet runs throughout the operational area at different speeds on the straight and in curves, from 1.5 m/s up to 2.5 m/s.

Differently from the AGVs that are guided by cables, magnetic strips or sensors installed inside the warehouse, every **GENI-Ant™ robots can move completely autonomously** in a dynamic environment. Using Wi-Fi communication, the system software manages their navigation, defines where each of them should speed up or slow down and calculates the most efficient travel path, according to the position of the vehicle, the nearest loading area, and the assigned destination.

And above all, **AMRs never stop**, due to the automatic battery recharging system ensuring continuous operation, with no need to arrange a dedicated charging station.

Main benefits for the customers

Can be effectively used to reduce manual material handling

Can be installed in restricted space and adapted quickly to any change

Can be moved very easily, as it is not a permanent equipment

Can be used as a stand-alone system or added to an existing equipment

Can be re-configured simply by changing the layout, **without stopping the operations**

Can be scaled up easily by adding vehicles or destinations, with no disruption

Can be combined with Fives' **automatic induction lines**



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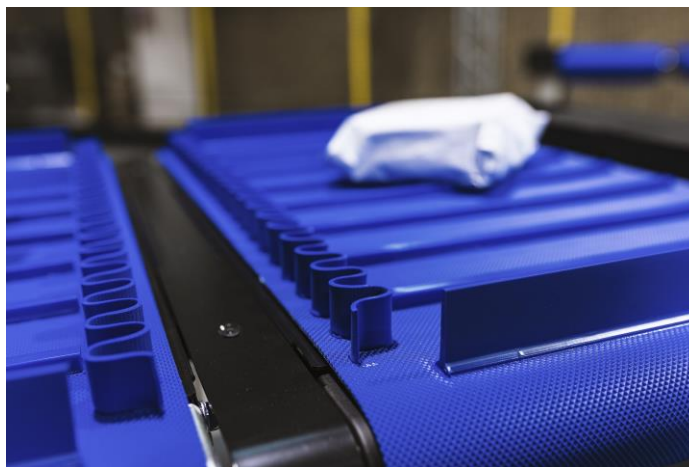
Initial investment

The initial investment can be adapted according to the current layout and performance requirements and then increased at a later stage, also on a RaaS (Robot as a Service) basis.

“Our AMRs are built to be deployed quickly, thanks to standardized vehicles, proven software modules and seamless integration. The system occupies a very low footprint and is therefore the optimal solution for many applications in both large-sized hubs and small distribution centers, such as post terminals, express courier depots and 3PL warehouses”
highlighted Fabio SACCHI,
New Application Director at
Fives Intralogistics SpA



New GENI-Ant model



GENI-Ant special belt



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Fives, more than 60 years of ultimate technologies to serve the intralogistics market

Fives Intralogistics SPA was established in 1957 in Lonate Pozzolo, Italy

The company is part of the Smart Automation Solutions division of Fives Group and is leader in designing high performance technologies and in developing automated solutions for the material handling in a wide variety of applications

Thanks to the know-how and expertise acquired in over 60 years of activity in the intralogistics sector, Fives intralogistics teams are able to provide each customer with the best turnkey solution to improve their business, increasing productivity and efficiency of operations, while reducing the costs, always with an eye to sustainability and ergonomics for operators.

Fives' smart automated solutions are flexible, scalable and future-proof, they can be easily adapted to unpredictable and sudden changes of the market and enable the customer to change processing inside the distribution center with no difficulty according to the growth of volumes.

Fives is partner of the major players in the intralogistics sector and offers a complete range of advanced technologies and systems.

In the early 1980s invented the cross belt technology that is recognized globally as the cutting-edge technology in high-speed and high capacity sortation.

In order to respond to the constantly changing scenarios and offer the most flexible and resilient solutions, Fives introduced the **GENI-Ant™**, **the first AMR able to be loaded automatically with parcel of all types and sizes.**

About Fives

As an industrial engineering Group with a heritage of over 200 years, Fives designs and supplies machines, process equipment and production lines for the world's largest industrial players in various sectors such as steel, aerospace and special machining, aluminium, automotive and manufacturing industries, cement, energy, logistics and glass.

The effectiveness of its R&D programs enables Fives to design forward-thinking solutions that anticipate industrials' needs in terms of profitability, performance, quality, safety and respect for the environment.

In 2019, Fives achieved a turnover of €1.99 billion and employed more than 8,400 people in about thirty countries.

A propos de la Division Smart Automation Solutions de Fives

With 1,600 employees in Europe, Asia and North America, Fives' Smart Automation Solutions Division provides best-in-class automation solutions with a broad portfolio of proprietary technologies and software for the retail and mass distribution, mail, post and courier, e-commerce and general industry markets.

www.fivesgroup.com

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