

topSPEECH-Lydia®

Success Story



At Schwabe North America's new Green Bay distribution center, voice recognition and bar code technology are working hand in hand.

When Schwabe North America designed a new 100,000-square-foot distribution center in Green Bay, Wisconsin, the manufacturer and distributor of food supplements and nutraceuticals wanted to take a fresh look at all of its materials handling.



Customer: Schwabe North America

Branch: Manufacturer / distributor of food supplements and nutraceuticals

Place: Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA

Users:

Application: Picking

System Environment:

Results: Increase in productivity

After thoroughly evaluating barcode scanning, pick-to-light and voice pick systems of different vendors, Schwabe decided on a combination of voice and barcode scanning. According to Tom Krajewski, director of distribution, the combination of voice and wearable barcode wrist-scanners was the winner of every ROI evaluation. Krajewski said, "We looked at it as a significant return for a comparatively small investment."

Schwabe decided on the topVOX voice solution following a visit to a technology lab in the Chicago area. They took five warehouse employees to the lab, where the Schwabe products were staged in racking to simulate the environment in the Distribution Center in Green Bay. Krajewski wanted to get feedback from the employees. After evaluating the voice system for the day, Krajewski said, "In about five minutes they were up and running. At the end of the day, the vote was 100 percent in favor of voice."

Schwabe plans to use voice down the road in replenishment and returns operations as well, where they believe the technology could deliver a significant improvement in productivity.

"Before moving to this new Distribution Center, we were picking 160 lines per hour" says Tom Krajewski. "After operating for only two weeks, we are at nearly 175 lines per hour. We anticipate getting to 240 lines per hour. We believe we can get to 300 lines per hour in the future."



"The system is not only proved to be easy for operators to use, it is also easy for the operations manager. If I need to make a change to the system, I can go right into the voice database and edit it."
(Tom Krajewski, Director of Distribution)



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