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## **40 YEARS FASCINATION TRANSPORT ROBOTICS: FROM START-UP TO HIDDEN CHAMPION FOR HIGH-TECH AGV**

With passion and courage for progress from the very beginning: The development of the first automated series industrial trucks to innovative, intelligent transport robotics solutions is closely linked to the company history of E&K AUTOMATION GmbH from Rosengarten.



40 Years EK AUTOMATION:  
With Hightech-AGV pushing the  
limits of what is possible

Founded in 1980 in Buchholz in der Nordheide, the engineering company Eilers, which four years later traded under the name Eilers & Kirf GmbH, specialised from the very beginning in the process automation of internal material flows. The partnership with JUNGHEINRICH for Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs), founded in 1988, and the subsequent takeovers of the AGV business of Demag Jungheinrich FTS GmbH and INDUMAT GmbH & Co. KG, the AGV division of LINDE Material Handling at that time, EK AUTOMATION established itself as a leading global developer and supplier of high-tech transport robotics.

### **Innovations as the key to success**

To date, the company has installed over 10,000 vehicles in more than 1,000 installations worldwide and has played a major role in the technological development of AGVs. In four decades of company history, EK AUTOMATION has repeatedly set new standards with innovative developments: EK AUTOMATION was a pioneer in the automation of series-production industrial trucks, was the first AGV manufacturer to bring contour navigation to market maturity, was the first company to integrate 3D point clouds into dynamic AGV simulations, defined the new industry benchmark for platform AGVs with the ultra-flat transport

# Press release



robot FAST MOVE, and was most recently able to demonstrate the fail-safe, automated stacking of unstable loads in an industrial application on the basis of 3D object recognition.

## Constantly pushing the limits of what is possible

Intelligent transport robots are a key technology of Industry 4.0 and form the central nervous system of the fully networked intralogistics of the future. AGVs from EK AUTOMATION are already moving all kinds of goods efficiently, accurately and with maximum flexibility in all intralogistics environments worldwide and are replacing conventional conveyor technology and manual material handling at increasing speed. "We are convinced that AGVs will be the predominant means of transport in intralogistics in a few years' time," says CEO Andreas Böttner. "Our AGVs of the latest generation represent what is technically possible today. Our current research projects have long been several steps ahead, anticipate future trends and will define the next evolutionary stage of transport robotics. To push the limits of what is possible further and further and to make the impossible possible for our customers - this is what drives us every day. Above all, our promise is always to deliver the best solutions for every customer, exactly tailored to their needs.



**Andreas Böttner, CEO**

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