

## Couzens carousels help EDF Energy Networks



EDF Energy Networks has installed five space-saving vertical carousel storage units from Couzens Storage Solutions to provide a faster, more efficient parts support to its field service engineers. The 4.9m high carousels provide almost half a mile (810m) of linear shelving and a total space of 476m<sup>2</sup> in a machine footprint of only 40m<sup>2</sup>, sharply reducing the walking distance per item picked, with fast access to any item.

From its Bury St Edmunds warehouse, EDF Energy Networks supplies parts and materials to support field-based maintenance and repair crews north of the Thames and across the East of England. Orders placed by EDF Energy Networks engineers are picked and dispatched each day for overnight shipment to 39 service locations.

Around 1,000 items are picked each day during normal working conditions, but during emergencies, such as bad weather conditions, the warehouse has stayed open around the clock to help its staff restore services to customers as quickly as possible.

As previous carousels were near the end of their working life, EDF Energy Networks needed to review the warehouse operation. It concluded that new carousels and reorganising the way in which pallet storage was used could deliver a far more efficient and productive process, with high volume parts placed close to dispatch.



**Client**  
EDF Energy Networks

**Problem**  
Providing prompt and efficient parts distribution to 39 field service engineers

**The Couzens Solution**  
Four 4.4m wide vertical carousels and one 5.120m wide unit, providing 476 m<sup>2</sup> of secure storage and picking space in only 40m<sup>2</sup>.

The vertical carousels recommended and supplied by Couzens Storage Solutions now hold some 80% of the parts picked, as opposed to the previous system where some 80% of the parts were taken from pallets in all parts of the warehouse. The current machine configuration uses a 30 position Pick by Light system and an alphanumeric keyboard, with pick instructions from RDTs. However, the machines could be easily configured to operate with a PC-linked stock control system if required.



Four of the carousels fit snugly beneath a mezzanine floor to make maximum use of the space. 4.4m wide, each 3.550m x 600mm carrier provides scope for a combination of storage configurations including single tier, two tier and three tier carriers for tote, bins and cartons. Each carrier has a maximum capability of 500Kg, with a total carousel capacity of 10,000Kg. The fifth carousel measures 5.120m wide housing 4.250m wide carriers.



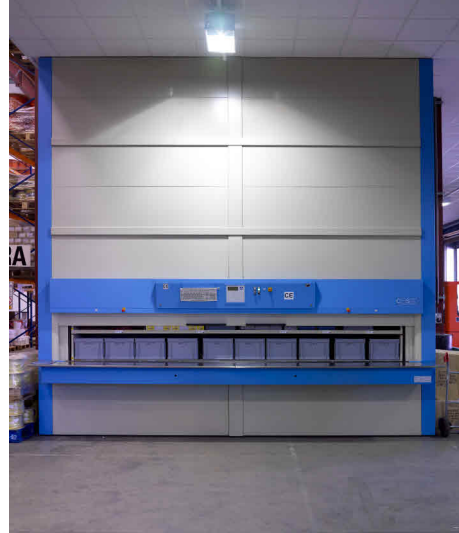
Claimed by Couzens to be unique, the carousels' double chain-drive system with eightfold suspension provides an exceptionally smooth and reliable operation, with virtually no tilting or lateral deviation.

Ian Shand, EDF Energy Network's Warehouse Co-ordinator explained the thinking behind the decision. "Treating our engineers as internal customers helped us to see where and how we could improve our service. We discussed our strategy with a number of suppliers and Couzens turned out to be very helpful and flexible in their approach - almost like a free consultancy - so we ended up with the right solution for our particular operation."

**Couzens Storage Solutions Ltd.**  
5 Heron Business Park  
Eastman Way  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire  
HP2 7FW  
Tel 10442 250010  
Email: [info@CouzensSS.co.uk](mailto:info@CouzensSS.co.uk)  
Web: <http://www.verticalcarousel.co.uk>

"We were particularly taken by the fact that the carousels have two drive motors giving 100% unbalanced load capability. This means that even with one side fully loaded and the other empty, the carousel still operates correctly. And if one motor fails, the carousel will still work."

"Everyone is very pleased with the carousels and the investment has given our staff a lot of confidence and a sense of security about the future of the business."



*Couzens Storage Solutions design and install a comprehensive range of high density storage carousels, supplied by leading manufacturers in the UK, Germany and Italy. The Company specialises in providing individually designed solutions to match specific client requirements, recognising the need to use costly space in the most productive manner. Solutions range from carousels up to 12m in height, making the maximum use of floor space, to innovative designs which extend the upper levels of the carouse sideways, occupying unused roof space and leaving the floor below clear.*