

Schwank Case Study:

An intelligent concept for logistics. Energy savings as a key foundation



“Maximum employee comfort and minimum operating costs are the most important issues for us.”

Dirk Wolf,
Industrial Engineer
Amazon.com Inc.



Equipment
ultraSchwank
ThermoControl Plus BMS system

Facility
753,500 square-foot distribution center

Results

- Employee comfort is maintained despite cold air infiltration from 48 loading docks

The Facility

Amazon.com Inc. founded in 1994 in the US, is one of the largest Internet global retailers. Originally billing itself as the world's largest bookstore, today, Amazon.com delivers almost anything, and everything.

In the past years, the demand for Amazon.com products increased so dramatically in Europe, that it became necessary to open a new distribution center. Due to its central location and accessibility, Leipzig was selected as the location for the new logistics giant. With an area of 753,000 square feet, the new distribution center is larger than 15 football fields combined.

The Leipzig distribution center handles bulky and heavy items such as home appliances & furnishings, hardware, and sports & outdoors equipment, and employs 400 workers in two shifts, but just before Christmas, shifts are increased to three.

The Issue

Although the majority of products stored require only freeze protection, the inbound and outbound loading areas, as well as the assembly area require comfort temperatures. Reliable heating was essential at the 48 loading docks. A comfort temperature of 68°F was desired in the stock room and picking areas. Spot heating was installed for selected work stations.

In light of Amazon.com's specific requirements, Schwank developed a custom made heating solution, one that provides comfort and flexibility to the different areas. Moreover, Amazon.com required a cost-efficient solution, one that contributes to keeping operations cost under control.

Schwank
INNOVATIVE HEATING SOLUTIONS



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Implementation

Schwank developed a tailored solution, based on its proprietary logistics-heating concept. In the loading docks, infrared heat acts as a protective shield, sheltering workers from the cold and providing a comfortable environment and uniform heat, so that even when loading dock doors remain open in the winter, the area stays warm. The heating system is remotely monitored through Schwank's ThermoControl Plus BMS controllers, allowing for the flexible setup of 15 independent heat zones.

Due to the system's optimized and environmentally friendly combustion, a very high radiant factor and high energy yield has been achieved.

Results

An efficient system that ensures uniform heat distribution and is easy to install, maintain, and operate. Intelligent controls allow the system to provide complete heat coverage to the warehouse area, and flexible heating to the picking area when required.

Due to the effectiveness and efficiency of Schwank heating systems, Amazon.com awarded Schwank two additional projects for distribution facilities in Great Britain and Germany.

Schwank's unique Logistics Heating Concept is based on the latest scientific research and the experience that comes from heating over 86 million square feet logistics facilities every year.



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