

# New high bay and no delay

Owned and operated by the UK's leading third-party logistics provider on behalf of a major blue-chip customer, the new high bay warehouse - installed by Swisslog Digitron - houses over 70,000 pallets across 11 storage aisles. Each aisle is equipped with its own dedicated fully automated stacker crane.

The cantilever top-hat bolted construction - comprising over 158 kilometres of posts, 100 kilometres of beams and over a million fixings - was installed to a very tight deadline, with erection of more than 2500 tonne of steelwork greatly simplified by SSI Schaefer's unique modular build process.

By allowing major racking sections to be constructed at ground level and swiftly raised into position using the services of a mobile crane, the block-build process makes for safer on-site construction by reducing the need for high level installation work. It also allows high bay storage systems to be constructed in a much faster time.

"Using this method of construction saved us something like 6 to 12 weeks of overall build time," says the project manager with main contractor Swisslog Digitron, adding that awarding SSI Schaefer the



**Wincanton Logistics new national distribution centre in Coleshill has been kitted out by SSI Schaefer with one of - if not - the largest free-standing in-hall double deep pallet storage complexes in Europe.**

single-source storage supply contract - following a very detailed tendering process - was also based on other important factors. "Firstly, SSI's bolted PR600 racking system is purpose-designed for high bay storage use and is not adjustable pallet racking adapted for such purposes.

"Secondly, the company has a proven track record throughout Europe when it comes to the construction of high bay structures to exacting FEM design and installation tolerance standards.

"As importantly, however, SSI's unique modular building block process gave us the flexibility of being able to change the build program at any time should circumstances require, while allowing the simultaneous installation at ground level of sprinklers and other ancillary services. This not only further simplified installation work, it also allowed crane commissioning to be carried out ahead of schedule."

The £3 million contract awarded to SSI Schaefer also included the installation of four aisles of 12m high PR600 fully adjustable, heavy duty pallet racking in the adjoining 4000 pallet capacity low bay warehouse.

"The secret of success on a project of this scale and size is very much down to teamwork, with SSI Schaefer's contribution playing an important part in helping us to achieve commissioning on-time and on-budget!"

Swisslog Digitron project manager