

Norway Post chooses SOLYSTIC for assisted manual sorting

Last March, Norway Post approved the ergonomics of SOLYSTIC's prototype for a manual sorting frame featuring a CAMS* system.

Stemming from a partnership between SOLYSTIC and TRECO, the system maintains the existing ergonomics used for manual bay-sorting without affecting the ground layout within the frame-sorting facility.

Following a 9-month experimental period in 2014 to test the CAMS system at the Robsrud sorting centre, Norway Post has asked SOLYSTIC to equip its manual sorting frames with OCR assistance.

The initial phase of the project, which aims at centralising the postman rounds preparation process, consists in fitting 50 CAMS system on frames in 6 sorting facilities. In addition to standard CAMS features (reading the address from an image and displaying the corresponding sorting slot), there are extra functionalities like automatic label printing (whenever a mail forwarding contract is detected or if the address is incomplete), the transfer of OCR rejects towards a web-coding platform, and the recycling of video-coded rejects using virtual identification (e-matching), etc.

Frames equipped with CAMS make the manual sorting process more flexible, especially on account of the dynamic, synchronised changes to sorting plans and address databases that are already available on the sorting machines. Statistics stemming from manual sorting can pave the way to substantial feedback regarding how to optimise this sorting method.



The efficiency of manual sorting operations is highly dependent on workstation ergonomics. CAMS is compact enough to be fitted either on separate furniture from the sorting frame or on the sorting frame itself, according to the specific constraints of each operator. Supplied by Danish manufacturer TRECO, the sorting frames at Norway Post feature 640 vertical slots large enough to accept all letter formats. The ergonomics of those workstations was already

once optimised in the past. In order to promote an efficient throughput without affecting the existing layout, SOLYSTIC and TRECO worked together to integrate the CAMS system into the sorting frames without changing the ground layout, or the ergonomics supporting the operators' work. Following an assessment conducted in March by Norway Post ergonomists and operators together with the project managers, the position of various ele-



ments was optimised, such as the CAMS device, the touch screen and the sorting slots, so as to fully meet the needs of all concerned.

These OCR-assisted sorting frames, resulting from the collaborative efforts of two key players in the postal sorting sector, is onsite since last June. ■

from Céline Guignard

*Computer Aided Manual Sorting