

# DPD\* welcomes Soly™

After using Soly™ for a parcel sorting application last summer, DPD has opened its doors to SOLYSTIC for an experiment preparing a driver's round.

Soly™ the SOLYSTIC's logistics solution for parcels has settled into a DPD France platform in Vémars (close to Paris Charles De Gaulle airport). The new testing phase (Proof Of Concept – POC) for this innovative solution started in mid-April 2016.

Soly™ is a mobile robotics system that automates sorting and parcel delivery preparation. This solution is particularly well-adapted to the challenges of e-commerce, doesn't require any specific adaptations to the working environment, is simple and quick to install and can be scaled to peaks in activity (Christmas, sales, etc.). Soly™ improves working conditions for operators and drastically

reduces manual handling operations. Furthermore, the simultaneous presence of all drivers isn't necessary during the package organising phase.

The system comprises a fleet of robotic shuttles along with trolleys at different heights that are designed to be moved around by the shuttles. A real-time information system manages the shuttles and can locate trolleys and parcels. Soly™ can also acquire images and processes bar codes and destination addresses. Lastly, a touchscreen tablet features an application allowing the driver to make changes to their itinerary. The delivery round being tested handles 90 to 120 parcels per day, some of which

are from abroad. The scenario is simple: the objects are sorted in the exact order of delivery. Each object is placed on the trolley and the shuttle then transports it to a storage area determined by the information system. When all the parcels for that delivery round are put away, the information system provides the driver with a suggested distribution scenario. Using the tablet, the driver make changes to the distribution plan (to deliver at another time or to a different address, not load that day, etc.) without even being near the parcels. Once the preparation is finished, the shuttles go to the trucks so the driver can load the objects, starting with the last ones to be delivered. ■

from Corinne Saulnier-Eude



\* DPD France is part of DPD Group, the second largest parcel delivery network in Europe.