

Successful intralogistics with Jungheinrich!

3D Mouse: SpacePilot® Pro
Application: CATIA®



The Hamburg-based Jungheinrich company have been delivering products and services in the in-house logistics sector since 1953. From its beginnings, with fewer than ten employees, the company now has a workforce of around 10,000 at locations all around the world, and is the third-largest intralogistics solutions provider in the world. Quite an achievement! Jungheinrich chose to deploy 3D technologies in product development very early on. This includes using 3D mice – 3Dconnexion SpacePilot Pros are currently being used in design engineering.

Jungheinrich provides custom, all-round solutions for stacking, transporting, storage and picking. From forklifts, through storage systems to entire logistical systems, customers can select the solution that suits them from a very wide range. But times change, so from the very beginning Jungheinrich took a particular interest in customers' ever more demanding, changing needs. As a result, product development has become a key element in the company's success.

In this respect, one major step was the introduction of 3D into design engineering. Jungheinrich recognised very early how this technology could be beneficial in product development and brought in its first 3D system,

CADDS from Computervision, in 1994. At the same time, the company procured the SpaceBalls 3D mice so that it could fully exploit the functionalities of the CAD software.

Rolf Honauer, who has been with the company since 1989 and works in CAD application support for Jungheinrich Moosburg GmbH, says, "We needed to switch from 2D to 3D so that we could continue to launch competitive products. CAD development gives staff entirely new options. We feel that buying 3D mice is essential if we are to be able to make full use of all the benefits of the software. And there are some jobs which we just couldn't accomplish without a 3D mouse. So, from the very start, we've had a 3D input device on every desk in the design engineering department, to be used in parallel with a conventional mouse." 60 SpacePilot Pros are now in use at the Moosburg office alone. "The entire company is now working with CATIA V5 and 3Dconnexion's latest products. Though we've changed our software over the years, we've always stuck with the 3D mice. And that's not going to be changing," says Honauer. "In terms of configuration and administration, CAD support has also become far easier because we use the same devices everywhere."

As well as the purely functional benefits, Jungheinrich also values the ergonomic features of 3Dconnexion's 3D mice very highly. "The SpacePilot Pro is ideal for navigating objects on the screen, and you can move quickly even around complex components. In the past, designers controlling objects used to use the standard mouse to turn the object, and the keyboard to select the necessary menu function. They were constantly switching



their grip," explains Carsten Schöttke, a project manager in the Storage + Systems Development department at Jungheinrich Moosburg. "Over time, this complicated working method was a real strain on the hand that holds the mouse. The 3D mice have made it far easier to work."

Working with a 3D mouse in parallel with the normal mouse divides the design work equally between both hands. You sit right in front of the screen and there's little strain on your hands or arms. This is of great importance amongst Jungheinrich's designers, who use the CAD application several hours every day and aim to deliver constant high-performance.

Schöttke says that the 3D mice have a further plus point, the fact that they can be customized by assigning commonly used commands to each function key, "Each designer configures their function keys in the way that is

most efficient for their working method. Moreover, with the SpacePilot Pro model, CATIA settings can be read directly from the display. The result is that the designers achieve an uninterrupted workflow in which they can focus 100 percent on the model rather than on selecting menu commands. When the functional benefits of a 3D mouse are combined, it is apparent that the work process is speeded up. Even though, at Jungheinrich,



that is not the crucial factor in using the 3Dconnexion products, since work enjoyment and a healthy posture take priority. We would choose the 3D mice for these two reasons alone."

And recently Jungheinrich have once again shown evidence of the excellence of their design work. In Hanover in early May, at "CeMAT", the world's leading intralogistics fair, the company introduced the world's first production-ready pallet truck with lithium-ion technology, in the shape of an electrical drawbar forklift. This innovation represents the successful fruition of a conceptual study first presented to the industry at CeMAT in 2008. The rapid implementation of this propulsion technology means that the vehicle is now officially ready for production. This will certainly not be the last innovation we see from Jungheinrich, who are enriching the world of intralogistics with support from CATIA and 3Dconnexion.