

Kasai Works Corporation



Unit Load AS/RS for metal molds create floor space for pressing machines, shorten mold exchange time

In the past, Kasai Works stored their 400 molds throughout the plant on sliding shelves and manually removed them as needed, transporting the molds with hand lifts to the pressing machines. This method presented problems including: 1) insufficient storage space, 2) slow process for mold exchange due to manual operation and 3) low inventory accuracy.

Centralizing the molds in the new Daifuku Automated Storage and Retrieval System (AS/RS) freed up significant space in Kasai's facility, enabling the company to install additional pressing machines. The introduction of inventory control software also enhanced location management greatly.

In addition, the time required for molds to be located and then transported to the pressing machines was reduced to 10 minutes, one-tenth the time required by the previous conventional method.

Solution Highlights

- Kasai is a manufacturer of car parts (i.e. operations switches for electric mirrors)
- The company has 7 manufacturing plants (6 in Japan, 1 in North America)
- Kasai owns about 400 kinds of metal molds for press working
- In January 2006, Kasai introduced a Daifuku pallet-storing Unit Load AS/RS with a storage capacity of 195 pallets
- An inventory control system enables the company of accurately track their inventory
- An overhead crane is used for storing and retrieving the molds within the facility
- Factory Manager of the Press Division Mitsuhiro Uno notes that, "Centralized control enhanced organization and neatness. It has also improved the work environment and employee safety"