

Expanding intermodal services

Moving closer to its customers

Camion Transport has moved to secure its long-term future in the French-speaking part of Switzerland by opening a new cargo logistics centre in the western Swiss village of Vufflens-la-Ville, outside Lausanne. Andreas Hollenstein, Camion Transport's head of infrastructure and the environment, elaborated the firm's plans for ITJ editor Jutta Iten.

Camion Transport, a logistics firm headquartered in the eastern Swiss town of Wil, in the canton of St Gallen, is set to open a new cargo logistics centre in Vufflens-la-Ville in spring 2018. The company already operates a branch office in the western Swiss city of Lausanne, but there is no scope for further expansion there, partially because there is no more space available. The new facility in Vufflens-la-Ville will replace the existing Lausanne branch and become Camion Transport's long-term base in western Switzerland.

"We now have a great opportunity to commence operations in a larger facility and to fine-tune our processes there in accordance with our core activities. Besides a broad range of logistics services on offer there we also provide our clients with leasable office space. Customers can thus source their transport and logistics requirements out to us, and simultaneously remain close to their goods," as Andreas Hollenstein, Camion Transport's head of infrastructure and the environment, elaborated. To this end the company has around 1,000 sqm of office space available.

Combined road/rail options

"One of our priorities is to set up dispatch and storage centres close to where our customers operate," Hollenstein says. "If you look at the geographical spread of our branch offices, then you'll see that they're focused on that arc of strong economic activity that stretches all the way from St Gallen in the east to Geneva in the west."

"Our dual transport system combines road and rail options, which enables us use the railways for the main leg of the journey and transport approximately two thirds of all consignments to their delivery regions by train," Hollenstein continued. To this end Camion Transport deploys around 130 waggons every night. Regional distribution is then completed by lorry, thus significantly reducing the firm's overall impact on the environment and the roads.

International connections

He is positive about the centre's proximity to France. "We carry out pre and post-feeding services for international consignments in Switzerland, serving major international forwarders in this context. Proximity to the borders is thus important, as is the requisite infrastructure, such as handling areas and ramps, and the concomitant authorisation."

The company is also extending its local logistics services, for example by adding picking and packing as well as storage facilities. The centre has 22,000 pallet slots for all types of goods. "We're also set to expand our transport services in the craning and special haulage segment," he added.

Sustainability writ large

Operating sustainably is one of the corporation's most important business principles. The firm is banking strongly on energy generation and is basing its consumption on efficient and environment-friendly technologies. The power needed to heat the ware-

New premises in Vufflens-la-Ville



- 48,000 sqm plot of land
- 8,600 sqm handling area; 20 rail waggons can be handled on a covered rail spur
- Warehousing and picking and packing facilities covering 13,600 sqm and offering approximately 22,000 pallet slots
- 1,500 sqm of offices, of which around 1,000 sqm are available for rent
- Open customs-bonded warehouse, authorised recipient and shipper

Photos: Camion Transport

housing area, for example, is produced by a woodchip power unit and spread around the buildings by efficient distribution plates mounted in the roofs. The office complex will be heated in winter and cooled in summer by heat exchange pumps, which will be powered by geothermal systems. The consistent deployment of LED bulbs and an intelligent building management system will help the transport enterprise to reduce its energy consumption in the new premises to the minimum required.

The new facility is one of nine rail cargo logistics centres operated by Camion Transport across Switzerland. "We'll handle some of our general cargo activities in the hub, and also store any type of goods there. We also operate a further six branch offices. The latter are generally run as logistics centres, which means that we actually operate a total of no less than 15 branches," was the confident note on which Hollenstein closed his elaborations. *it*