

Fitting out a storage facility in Mauritania

Stodec Trading enables enhanced warehouse efficiency, reducing stock loss, protecting components, and improving staff safety and productivity

An extensive warehouse equipment fit out was completed by Stodec Trading Ltd earlier this year at a major mining site in Mauritania.

A new central warehouse was being constructed to secure and protect the many thousands of essential machinery and vehicle spares ranging from tiny precision bearings to large filter units and including every component for servicing the wide range of engine, equipment, generator, truck and excavating units.

Other essential items such as personnel protection equipment, safety and fire control, IT equipment, manual and power tools also needed secure storage.

Some items needed temperature control whilst in store to maintain their life and effectiveness and other areas were bund protected and fire safe to ensure that inflammable paints and chemicals were properly contained.

The client requirement was not just to get as much storage space as possible it was an essential requirement that every part should be readily accessible quickly to minimise any delay to production and operations when a breakdown occurred.

Project criteria and preparation

Prior to the fitting out by Stodec Trading all items had been stored either out in the open or in lines of shipping containers spread out across the site. Component damage and deterioration was very high and finding an essential part when needed was often a lengthy and sometimes frustrating search. The lack of proper component warehousing and the ability to implement security, stock control and

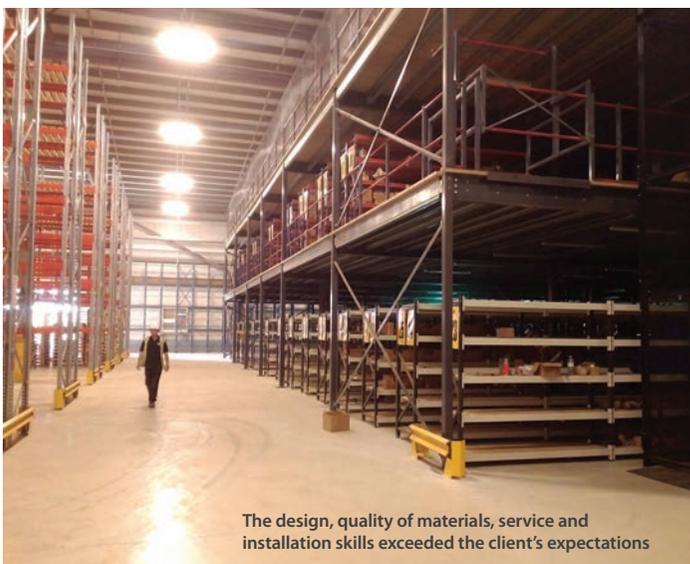
stock selection effectively was a serious and growing problem for production and servicing. Many components would need to be replaced without having been used so component stock wastage was increasing resulting in high unnecessary costs.

The brief to Stodec Trading Ltd was to use their many years of experience in storage equipment layout and design to maximise capacity and to meet the client objectives of access, protection, stock control and warehouse operation efficiency.

The site in Mauritania was remote so Stodec planning had to include consideration of shipping and installation logistics for the storage equipment. A very wide range of different storage systems were used in the installation to ensure that the immense range of components and equipment were most effectively stored.

The final design included the following:

- A Stodec two tier mezzanine installation of 1400m² to provide three levels of storage and effectively increase the warehouse space by using the headroom to the full. The shelving and bulk storage areas on the mezzanine were accessed by stairs, pallet safety gates and by a fully enclosed powered goods lift.
- Dexion Impex steel shelving bays both on and under the mezzanine to provide shelf storage and space for storage bins and trays for small components.
- Dexion Longspan shelving both on and under the mezzanine levels for larger components, gaskets, boxed and odd shaped items.
- Flammable storage cabinets to safely store paints, cleaning and other high risk items within secure cupboard units with their own built in sump to contain spills.
- Dexion Speedlock pallet racking within the main warehouse area giving multi-level pallet storage and using the 8m headroom to the full. Dexion Pallet rack beams were fitted with inset timber shelves to allow for odd pallet size location and to add safety during stock location at high level. The clad beam levels could also be used for boxed stock location and selection by hand at low level.
- Tool storage drawer units with multiple lockable drawers to securely store high value tools, bearings, electronic components etc. The drawers were fitted with adjustable dividers to allow future flexibility.
- Bench units in a range of designs were installed, some for goods receipts and unpacking, some for order fulfilment and re-packing and a central issues counter area.
- Cantilever racking to safely store pipework, machinery shafts and other long components. Medium and heavy duty racks are inside the warehouse serviced with the warehouse fork lifts while heavy



The design, quality of materials, service and installation skills exceeded the client's expectations

- duty galvanised cantilever racks have been provided for external storage with access by the yard fork lifts.
- Spigot racks allow for storage of many varieties of drive belts which are hung from the adjustable spigots so that they retain proper shape even after a long storage period.
- Temperature controlled storage, with an area fully enclosed with insulated steel panels and fitted internally with Dexion shelving to store temperature sensitive parts has been installed with an air conditioning unit fitted by the client.
- Troax mesh partition and stock anti-fall protection has been used in a number of areas.
On the top mezzanine level mesh screen inside the handrail around the perimeter prevents any stock or personnel from falling.

Stock security is provided in other areas using the mesh partition to create a storage cage and the backs of the 8m high pallet racks area clad with anti-fall mesh where they back onto pedestrian or fork lift travel gangways.

Project management

The project required Stodec Trading Ltd to visit the site to understand the customer's requirements and to collect data on the new warehouse design, the products to be used and the issues which would affect delivery and installation.

From this data Stodec Trading Ltd prepared layout and CAD drawings and detailed specifications for a range of alternative storage proposals with guide costings.

Following much discussion and consideration of variations the final design was confirmed and product ordered.



The client requirement was to maximise storage space and that every part should be readily accessible

Stodec Trading Ltd arranged for manufacture of the equipment in the UK and dealt with all consolidation, packing and shipment documentation into containers supplied by the client.

The SEMA qualified team of installers completed the site installation over a ten week period and the complete project was on schedule and on budget providing our client with a first class installation which fully supports their operations.

The design, quality of materials, service and installation skills exceeded the client's needs and expectations. Stodec Trading Ltd were able to demonstrate the value of their many years' experience and the quality of the Dexion storage equipment range. ■

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