



HOMEBASE

Homebase is one of the leading Home DIY and Garden Centres in the UK. The company has more than 285 stores throughout the UK and Ireland. To serve these stores, Homebase operates a total of five warehouses, one in Swindon and four in the Northampton area. The company, founded in 1979, had a 2001 turnover of £1.4 billion.

Homebase's Challenge

Homebase distributes a variety of highly seasonal horticultural products and hard goods, such as garden furniture, which creates a number of key challenges that the Catalyst WMS has helped to meet. Homebase is the UK's largest supplier of horticultural goods and its distribution operation has to handle a complex combination of products that are seasonal, come in various shapes and sizes, are easily

damaged and are perishable. This means that an extremely well-planned and implemented solution is vital to ensure the smooth distribution of these products.

Homebase is also one of the first UK home and garden stores to introduce Direct Global Sourcing. This allows Homebase to purchase products directly from manufacturers

throughout the world giving the company considerable savings in terms of sourcing products.

Prior to the installation of Catalyst, Homebase operated a batch paper pick operation and the challenge of implementing barcodes throughout the depots to create a full real-time RF environment posed a considerable challenge.

Homebase's Goals

To meet the demands of these challenges, Homebase has opened several new warehouses and has implemented the Catalyst WMS to run them. This network of warehouses needs to handle the massive increase in product flow-through to meet the

requirements of its stores and the rapid overall growth of the company.

One of Homebase's key requirements for its non horticultural supply chain, is to have a stock sharing capability whereby if demand exceeds available stock then the system apportions fairly

what is available to each store. In addition it is important that the order-picking sequence matches the vehicle despatch times. Catalyst has shown great flexibility in enabling these specific modifications to be achieved successfully.

The Catalyst Solution

Catalyst WMS was first selected for Homebase's Lydiard Fields Greenfield site warehouse in Swindon in 1996. The system was initially installed in 1997 and all the sites have since been upgraded and are now running Release 7.2. The Catalyst WMS was chosen because it was a mature, tested and proven product that had the power to

handle existing requirements as well as having the flexibility and scalability necessary to expand with the business. In addition, real-time functionality with radio frequency (RF) equipment was essential.

Homebase's bespoke ERP system is currently running on an SAP R/3. The Catalyst WMS is running on an HP K-

Class system using the Oracle 8 RDBMS and the RF equipment used is LXE Narrow Band and Symbol Spectrum 24 Spread devices.

Homebase has recently added Catalyst's FlowTrak Warehouse Optimisation system. The system will integrate fully with Catalyst WMS and will allow Homebase to increase the

overall efficiency, productivity and cost-effectiveness of its distribution operations. FlowTrak Warehouse

Optimisation software provides analysis and recommendations to ensure that inventory is stored, picked,

distributed and replenished using the most cost-effective and productive means available.

Homebase's Return on Investment

Catalyst WMS has given Homebase much greater stock accuracy and operational flexibility. The company

can now reserve stock for special ordering and uses RF for real-time management in many key areas of the

business, adding to both the efficiency and productivity of the company's distribution operations.

Customer quote

"Catalyst has real-time functionality at the core of its system and this has been vital in Homebase's on-going

developments, Catalyst's staff are very knowledgeable and experienced and have been instrumental in ensuring

each implementation project has been a success.."

Technical Facts at a Glance

WMS Version

- Catalyst WMS Release 7.2

Flowtrak Warehouse Optimisation

Configuration:

- HP K-Class
- Oracle 8 RDBMS

- LXE Narrow Band
- Symbol Spectrum 24 Spread devices

Warehouses:

- Lydiard Fields, Swindon – 268,000sqft

- Park Farm, Northampton – 345,000sqft
- Brackmills, Northampton – 312,000sqft
- ISC Wellingborough – 265,000sqft
- Corby, Northampton – 120,000sqft



European Headquarters

Catalyst International
Capital Court
30 Windsor Street
Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1AB
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 (0)1895 450 400
Fax: +44 (0)1895 450 401
info@london.catalystwms.com

Corporate Headquarters

Catalyst International, Inc.
8989 North Deerwood Drive
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53223
United States
Phone: 414.362.6800
Toll Free: 800.236.4600
Fax: 414.362.6794
info@catalystwms.com

Latin American Headquarters

Catalyst International, Inc.
PO Box 267696
Weston, Florida 33326-7696
United States
Phone: 954.389.0371
Fax: 954.385.8169

Internet Address

www.catalystwms.com