

VAHTERUS OY

## Speeding up operations with Agilon

**“Agilon is a part of my daily work and ensures that the needed items are available to welders. The Agilon portal is located conveniently at my workstation so that I can pre-pick needed items right from the Agilon access point.”**

Niina Nieminen,  
Agilon main user



**Vahterus, located in Kalanti, Southwest Finland, has been growing rapidly over the years by investing in innovation for its operations. Founded in 1990, the company manufactures heat exchanger solutions for the process and chemical industries, cryogenics, as well as the oil and gas industries. The company's products are used in over 50 countries. Exports account for over 90% of its turnover.**

Years ago, when Vahterus decided to improve its warehouse management process, no other options than Konecranes Agilon® material handling system were even mapped out, according to Technology Manager, **Paavo Pitkänen**. "At the time," he says, "Agilon was a new concept, which we were interested in from the beginning.

Vahterus invested in Agilon in December 2013. The Agilon consisted of an 8-meter-long and 5.6-meter-high system with one robot and one access point. This system was installed in its production facilities to store small components needed in production.

## Extension for material handling system

Most external suppliers of Vahterus were integrated to the system when it was extended by three modules in February 2018. Today, Agilon can just send delivery notification to the supplier's order system when low inventory thresholds are surpassed. When the suppliers deliver orders, they insert the items straight into Agilon, instead of placing them on shelves as before.

Agilon is mainly used by Vahterus' production and warehouse employees and collectors. "I collect items using Agilon and move them to different workstations so that our welders can begin their work straight away. The Agilon portal is located conveniently at my workstation so that I can pre-pick needed items right from Agilon's access point," Agilon main user **Niina Nieminen** says. "When items are always available, production doesn't have to wait around for parts. There is no shortage in supply when thresholds are set right. Plus, we believe our expenditure on working materials will also decrease," Paavo Pitkänen tells.

Agilon users are constantly thinking of new ways the system might support their work even better. For example, signing into Agilon has been made even easier, as it is now possible with an access card, in addition to fingerprint and PIN code logins. Vahterus' satisfaction with the system and the benefits that it offers them can be easily seen, since the company is considering acquiring a new system at another factory site in Kalanti.



Technical Purchasers Vesa Kuusisto (Left), and Manu Hirvilammi use Agilon portal in their daily work.

### Industry

- Industrial products

### Challenge

- need for more shelf space to add working materials, such as gloves and abrasive discs, to warehouse management system

### Solution

- the system was extended by three modules in February 2018, making it 14 meters long and creating 192 meters more storage space, yet only taking up 10 square meters of floor area
- additionally another robot and access point were added


### Benefits

- the system takes care of inventory, the automatic item quantity tracking eases inventory management and material handling
- with an automatic ordering there is no shortage in supply when thresholds are set right
- when items are always available, production doesn't have to wait around for parts
- expenditure on working materials will also decrease
- the second robot has speeded up production and warehouse operations noticeably

## VAHTERUS OY

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