



# STOPA TOWER Eco and Mono sheet metal storage systems supply material for production

SCHAEFER GmbH in Sigmaringen, a manufacturer of lift controls and displays, relies on two STOPA TOWER sheet metal storage systems for flexible production of sheet metal parts. In addition to a STOPA TOWER Mono system with 23 storage locations it has invested in a STOPA TOWER Eco system with 28 locations. Thus its warehouse equipment comes from a single source, which simplifies maintenance and service. The compact systems take up little space and are a short distance from the company's laser-cutting and stamping equipment. Moreover, the system achieves almost 100 percent availability.

The tower storage systems are single-sided with a puller unit for longitudinal input. Flat pallets for medium-sized sheets (1,250 x 2,500 millimetres) serve as load carriers. The pallets and most of the sheet metal grades are assigned to fixed positions.

Thanks to their compact design, the STOPA TOWER sheet metal storage systems achieve a high degree of space utilisation and have a small footprint. The shelves of the STOPA TOWER Eco have double heights, permitting an even better loading density and storage of higher goods.

Both towers have a robust, low-maintenance twin-mast lifting beam that stores and retrieves items with a push/pull device. A load-independent travel measuring system ensures precise positioning.

The systems are operated at central control panels. The LCD displays, which have a touch-sensitive user interface, show all inputs and error messages in plain text. After an employee enters the number of a storage location and confirms it, the STOPA TOWER Eco handles the order automatically. By comparison, the control unit of the STOPA TOWER Mono can store up to ten orders, which it likewise handles automatically. As soon as it has been confirmed that material has been removed from storage, the controllers return the pallets to their positions.

SCHAEFER operates the storage systems in two shifts. In 2011, the towers had a sheet metal turnover of 120 metric tons.

## Fast, flexible workflows

Forklift trucks transport sheet metal stacks from the delivery pallet to the STOPA TOWER Eco and set them down on the plungers of the storage platform. After



**The STOPA TOWER sheet metal storage systems take up little space and are connected to the SCHAEFER laser-cutting and stamping equipment**



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approval by the operator, the lifting beam picks up the first flat pallet with a sheet metal stack from the plungers and takes it automatically to its shelf. A TRUMPF laser-cutting and stamping machine, which is linked to the storage towers, is supplied from the STOPA TOWER Mono. The STOPA TOWER Eco is mainly used as a buffer for

resupplying the STOPA TOWER Mono, which is restocked if necessary. This saves time and ensures high flexibility. For SCHAEFER the nearly 100 percent availability of the storage systems is important, and the company ensures this by means of regular maintenance.

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