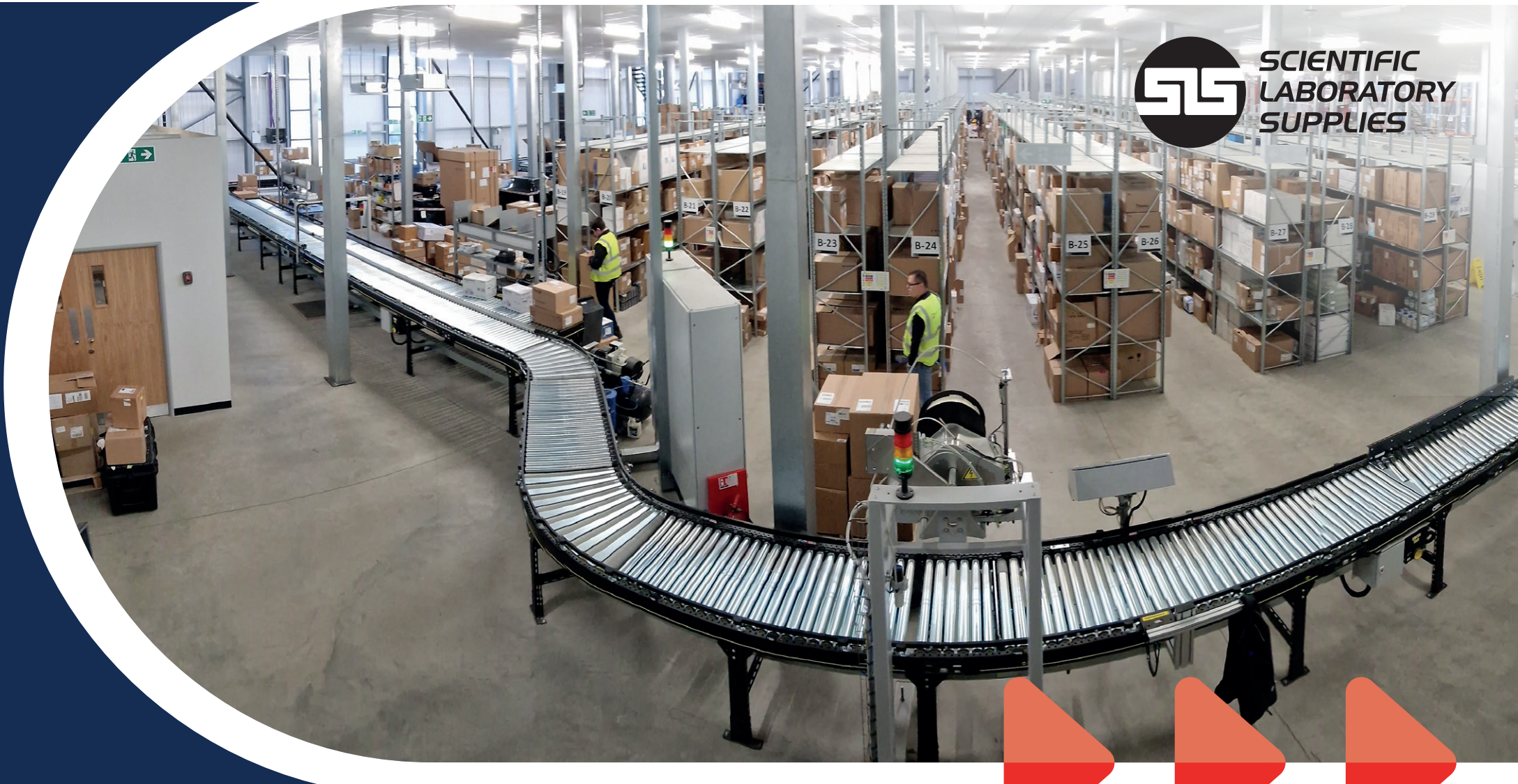


New National DC for SLS



**SCIENTIFIC
LABORATORY
SUPPLIES**





The Brief

Scientific Laboratory Supplies (SLS) began operating in 1991 and has grown to become the UK's largest independent supplier of laboratory equipment, chemicals and consumables.

After a period of growth and positive forecasting SLS identified that the current site in Nottingham was becoming outgrown and a move to a new and much larger facility seemed the clear next step in the company's success strategy.

SLS identified a suitable site on a new commercial development on the outskirts of Nottingham, the brand-new building offered over 55,000 sq ft of space ready to be fitted out with a mezzanine, racking, shelving and a multi floor conveyor & automation system. The fit-out plans would allow SLS to process **300%** more order than the previous site.

This expansion follows a significant period of growth that has positioned SLS as the UK & Ireland's leading independent distributor of laboratory equipment. The new NDC, which is twice the size of the previous facility will enable SLS to better serve its customers by meeting demands more efficiently and enhancing its industry-leading customer service standards.

SLS wanted to maximise the warehouse capacity and to add a replenishment function alongside a full case and tote picking section.

CSL demonstrated a clear outline of the solution from the outset, working closely with SLS throughout the tender process was one of the key reasons that SLS decided to partner with CSL Automation.





Our Wilford facility has served us well, but we've now surpassed its capacity in both scale and ambition. The move to our new location enables a significant expansion in storage and processing space for our portfolio of 600,000 products. With advanced, automated warehouse management and state-of-the-art conveyor systems, we can now deliver to customers faster, accelerating the pace of groundbreaking research and production across UK laboratories.



Bruce Mowbray
Operations Director at SLS



CASE STUDY

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The Solution



SLS reached out to CSL having identified them as a multi-faceted partner capable of bringing the project to life. After discussing the objectives and ambitions for the new facility CSL started the process of understanding their business and creating a set of designs to meet their requirements.

Project Objectives

- ▶ Reduce operational costs
- ▶ Increase volume throughput capacity
- ▶ Maximise warehouse cubic usage and improve accuracy
- ▶ Optimise cost of investment and return on investment
- ▶ Functionality & process streams considered

Processes to Enhance

SLS had a clear set of what they wanted to achieve by implementing a new automation systems:

- ▶ Stock put away from receipt
- ▶ Pallet, full case and part case storage
- ▶ Full case and part case picking
- ▶ Order packing & consolidation
- ▶ Packed order sortation by selected carrier
- ▶ Full integration with WMS



The Results

- ▶ Approximately 230m of conveyor system installed to efficiently transport products and customer orders
- ▶ Throughput speed (per hour) 480/hr
- ▶ Throughput totals - based on 1 x 8hrs shift = 3840/day, 19,200/wk (Mon-Fri)
- ▶ Stock of over 600,000 Products
- ▶ Packing locations
 - ▶ 5 x tote pack sort lanes
 - ▶ 5 x Full case sortation lanes
- ▶ 2 Tier mezzanine floor – 11,410sq feet of extra floor space created

CSL designed the total turnkey solution focused on SLS's current challenges & future plans and worked ways to overcome and achieve from both day one but also allow SLS to grow and expand into the proposed solution. The CSL solutions team visited the old site multiple times to gain this understanding along with discussions with Operations Director, Bruce Mowbray and the team.

The project ran smoothly and on schedule, as principal contractor CSL were able to organise every element of the installation including, the mezzanine, storage, automation and conveyor equipment. By being included in the project from an early stage the CSL technical team were able to work with the building contractor to include re-enforcements in the flooring to correctly support the mezzanine along with its intended loads.





CSL were really responsive, our RFQ request came back really quickly and I think they went through about 9 designs and proposals to get to the one we are at today, but fully engaged throughout. The site has really high ceilings, 12 meters to the haunch so we wanted to use automation to use this to our advantage and also to give us the efficiencies to grow the business



Bruce Mowbray
Operations Director at SLS.

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The result was a successfully installed project that meets the brief of an ambitious business.

CSL installed a range of automation equipment from a number of our trusted partners including:

- ▶ 1 x Qimarox MK5 XL
- ▶ 12 x Cognex Cameras in key locations
- ▶ 1 x Mettler Toledo - Check weigher
- ▶ 2x Ambaflex Spiral conveyors (Double Stacked)
- ▶ 230m Interroll Powered Roller Conveyors
- ▶ 1 x Logopak automated labeller
- ▶ 2 x Lift up gates (Interroll)
- ▶ 8 x Interroll Belt Transfers
- ▶ 5 x Interroll High Performance Diverts
- ▶ Racking for **1,520** pallets
- ▶ Provision of WCS system to integrate fully with WMS
- ▶ Over **23,000** shelving locations

The project completed and the official go live date was March 2024.

Want to know more? Call us on: +44 (0)1283 55 22 55 or email: sales@cslautomation.co.uk

