

KOOKABURRA TRANSFORMS THE KITTING PROCESS TO DELIVER EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE

The unique solution from OPEX® and Dexion® Liverpool enabled Kookaburra to increase their output by 60%

OPEX®

// THE BACKGROUND

Kookaburra Educational Resources, one of Australia's largest wholesale education suppliers, primarily provides office and stationery supplies to schools as well as government offices across the country. Founded by a teacher in 1989, Kookaburra is an entirely Australian-owned and operated family business based in New South Wales, handling everything from customer orders to distribution. In addition to office and stationery, Kookaburra provides arts and crafts, learning aids, robotics and STEM, sports, and interactive solutions to its customers. One of the primary services Kookaburra provides is building unique custom kits and supply packs for students, with items picked by individual schools, parents, and students.

// THE CHALLENGE

During peak seasons when students were going back to school, Kookaburra needed 60 employees to keep up with demand. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they received more orders than usual due to increased online buying. Kookaburra's picking and sorting process was completely manual, only allowing them to complete around 285-300 packs per day. Each unique student pack ranged in size, with some packs having anywhere from 30-44 pieces. To improve customer service and order accuracy, Kookaburra wanted to reduce the time required to fulfill orders while using less labour.

// KEY CHALLENGES



PICKING AND SORTING WAS ENTIRELY MANUAL



INCREASE IN BUSINESS DURING THE PANDEMIC DUE TO INCREASED ONLINE BUYING



ORDER FULFILLMENT WAS TAKING TOO LONG

// KEY RESULTS

65%

DECREASE IN LABOUR NEEDED
DURING SHIFTS

2,400

ITEMS SORTED PER HOUR

700+

ORDER PACKS CREATED
PER DAY

// THE SOLUTION

Kookaburra worked closely with OPEX® integrator partner, Dexion® Liverpool, to find a better solution for its order fulfillment process and implemented the OPEX Sure Sort® automated sorting system in October 2020. It took approximately 3 months from the date of purchase for the Sure Sort system to be fully-installed, allowing Kookaburra to get up and running quickly. Implementing the Sure Sort system allowed Kookaburra to reduce its reliance on labour, requiring only 21 of the original 60 employees that worked during the day-shift, a 65% reduction in labour. They also were able to eliminate their night shift. Automating their sorting process increased Kookaburra's output per day, while achieving sorting rates of 2,400 items per hour. Deploying the Sure Sort also resulted in Kookaburra picking significantly larger batches of orders, enhancing their picking efficiencies which resulted in an overall reduction of 470% cost per order. When paired with software solutions from Dexion Liverpool, the Sure Sort system allowed Kookaburra to blind-sort their small items without barcodes, improving the flow of their pick cycle in the distribution center. Innoware, Dexion Liverpool's preferred Warehouse Control System (WCS), ensures efficient product flow across the Sure Sort, conveyor system, label applicators, and check weigh system deployed at Kookaburra.

// THE FUTURE

Now that the solution from OPEX and Dexion Liverpool is in place, Kookaburra is able to grow its business and improve both its upstream and downstream processes without the constraint of time-consuming, manual processes. With the success of the Sure Sort system in their wholesale business, Kookaburra is looking to expand into other opportunities within its DC.

"THE ADAPTIVENESS OF THE MACHINE TO GIVE US A FINAL SOLUTION AND REDUCE LABOUR IS PHENOMENAL."

-Tom Sinclair

Executive Director at Kookaburra

"IT GREATLY IMPROVED OUR WORKFLOW AND INCREASED THE BUSINESS'S OUTPUT DRAMATICALLY."

-Tom Sinclair

Executive Director at Kookaburra