

LIGHTEN THE LOAD

Power Stow's new baggage unloading system is improving the working environment for baggage handlers at airports around the world

■ Power Stow is specialized in designing and ■ manufacturing high-quality and reliable baggage and cargo handling systems, and its solutions are present at more than 150 airports in more than 30 countries around the world. Its products were developed with the purpose of improving working conditions by limiting physical strain for baggage handlers while increasing efficiency. Further benefits of its systems include reduced operating costs for airports, airlines and ground-handling companies.

"Power Stow is known as the world's leading manufacturer of the extendable belt loader system," explains Thomas Warming, area sales manager at Power Stow. "The Rollertrack Conveyor system provides unique operational features to airports, ground handlers and airlines such as KLM, FedEx, American Airlines, Delta, United and many more. The Rollertrack Conveyor is an advanced baggage and cargo handling system that facilitates and speeds up the process of loading and unloading narrow-body aircraft."

Helping hand

Power Stow's Transfer Belt was developed to reduce manual baggage handling and limit the strenuous work of baggage handlers. According to a recent study, a baggage handler typically lifts 4-5 tons of baggage a day, sometimes even up to 10 tons. Studies from the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) show that manual



ABOVE
A wide variety of baggage, packages and mailbags can be handled with the Transfer Belt

BELOW
The Transfer Belt can help airports achieve easier, more productive and faster unloading of baggage carts and ULDs



baggage lifting and handling are considered the main risk factors for work-related musculoskeletal disorders among baggage handlers. Further research has shown that prolonged daily exposure to heavy lifting in awkward positions often causes chronic or prolonged side effects to musculoskeletal health.

"The Transfer Belt helps unload any type of baggage from ULDs or baggage carts onto the conveyor belt in the baggage sorting area," Warming explains. "The baggage handler's lifting and twisting movements are significantly reduced. The operator uses one-third of the lifting force by simply pulling the bags onto the Transfer Belt instead of lifting and twisting heavy weights. Therefore, this semi-automatic unloading method significantly reduces the risk of back and shoulder injuries, resulting in better working conditions, less sick leave and a longer working life."

According to Warming, the unloading technology also facilitates faster baggage handling and continuously high performance even during peak periods. "Using the Transfer Belt, a single operator can handle a large number of items in an efficient and ergonomically correct manner, thus fully complying with social distancing measures. The gentle way of handling baggage also results in less damage to both baggage and conveyor," he adds. The Transfer Belt can be installed on new or existing conveyor belts with no or only minor adjustments.

A benefit of the Transfer Belt, according to Warming, is its ease of use. "The operator simply slides the bags onto the Transfer Belt, which then guides the baggage onto the conveyor belt," he comments. "Almost all functionalities are controlled

via the multipurpose handle – movement, belt start, brake release, etc. ‘Stop’ and ‘Complete’ have their own dedicated buttons, which are located on both sides of the machine.”

The Transfer Belt is currently in use at airports in Europe, the USA and Asia, and Power Stow has a number of projects underway or in the pipeline.

Product development

The first Transfer Belt demo unit was installed in early 2018, and based on user input and continued improvements, Power Stow further developed and perfected the systems, and launched the base model in 2019. Tests and risk assessments conducted at different airports in the Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, the USA and Hong Kong have been successful and resulted in the first orders.

“We have had very positive feedback from users who quickly adopted the new way of working, mainly due to ease of use and efficiency. This simply emphasizes the need for innovative technologies that improve working conditions for baggage handlers,” says Warming.

“We are constantly working on improving our existing products and developing new solutions,” he continues. “When transforming complex technology into user-friendly baggage handling systems, we do



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not compromise on quality as we see a growing need in the market for advanced GSE solutions for airlines, airports and ground handlers.”

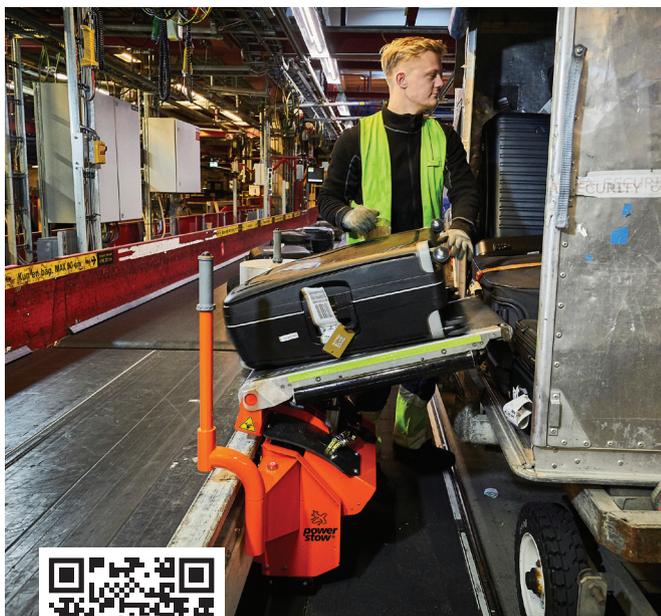
In response to the challenges facing the aviation industry and to accommodate short-term needs, Power Stow has recently launched a flexible rental program for the Rollertrack Conveyor system. “We feel strong and well prepared for the coming challenges and look forward to serving our customers in the years to come,” Warming concludes. ■



The Transfer Belt can be seamlessly integrated into existing baggage handling systems.



Advanced baggage and cargo handling solutions



Transfer Belt

Faster and safer unloading of baggage

- Increase your throughput with our ergonomic unloading aid.
- Innovation for easier, more productive and faster unloading of baggage carts and ULDs at airports worldwide.

For more information and video demonstration please visit our website:

www.powerstow.com