

## How AMH Helped a Car Manufacturer Solve Material Handling & Factory Space Issues

When AMH began working with a major North American car manufacturer, the manufacturer was rolling out a new vehicle model, but had some material handling and space challenges on its assembly line floor at the factory where the model was to be built. AMH developed an implementation plan to solve the problem. It involved the installation of 4 Kardex XP Vertical Lift Modules and PowerPick Global Warehouse Management Software.

### The Challenges:

*“We were looking, at the time, at upwards of 116 part numbers that we needed to manage, and a floor space of about 7,300 square feet. And main body wire harnesses are very, very large, and very, very heavy components that take up a lot of space. So, that number of parts wasn't going to fit in that small floor space.”*

*“What we wanted to do was use a Kardex brand VLM—vertical lift modules is what they call them—to be able to manage that, stored a little bit higher, stored in a more compact space, and then also use that product sequence, the commodities to line up with whatever vehicle was coming down the line. Because we build just in time, every single vehicle back-to-back is completely different than the one next to it. So, we had a pretty significant task to get that done in a very short amount of time. And it was something that had never really been done in that capacity in the company.”*



### Pre-Installation:

*“We went through the quoting process. We had some modifications, even after we had submitted it into our purchasing program and got the purchase order out to AMH. We had to make some revisions even beyond that, just as we continued to understand and learn what was going on. They sent the order to Kardex and Kardex started to build for the components of the VLMs in Germany. Around like three months, they shipped the material directly to us at our facility and AMH sent three guys to come in and supervise the installation.”*

## The Installation:

*“Most if not all of our installation and assembly work of tooling is done by union contract labor, so AMH only supervised; we provided the manpower to do the installation as well as our own supervision. So, over the course of two weeks, we got all the components assembled and got the VLMs built. We had four towers. And then the next week after that, Kardex sent a representative who helped us program the system, get all the parts loaded into it, and train up the operators and some of the engineers and salaried employees in the plant as well, so we can help with any sort of downtime issues.”*



## How AMH Handled Issues:

When asked to describe any glitches that arose during the installation and how AMH resolved them, the LMS lead said:

*“We had a few ancillary components that were modified. We had some television screens that were installed on the VLM so the operators could see what the instructions for the machines were...you know, I'm going to put this part into this area or I'm going to take this part out of this area. And not necessarily on AMH, but we put smaller TVs up than really what we should have. So, I think that was a learning for both myself and the AMH team, to go a little bit bigger so it's visible from farther away. And AMH was really quick to say, 'Alright, well let's take these smaller ones down.' They ran out, purchased larger ones, got them installed.”*

*“And also, the scan guns that we use. So, we scan the barcodes on parts to load them in the system. We didn't specify some of the specific details on the barcode. So, they just bought scanners and then we found out that they were only capable of scanning 1D barcodes, as opposed to dot matrix or 2D barcodes. So again, a minor thing figured out. They went out; they bought the replacement ones. But other than that, it went fairly smoothly. We had some minor downtime with the units which is to be expected.”*



### **The Car Manufacturer Rated AMH Highly:**

When asked how he would rate the project and AMH, the LMS lead said:

*“Fairly highly. They were easy to work with, definitely attentive. Still, our company, like any other company, has its own little intricacies you need to learn to be successful. But I think there were a lot of lessons learned and they were more than willing to take on those lessons. So, definitely highly rated among the other vendors that I've worked with for being attentive, being willing to take in and learn from these lessons. They were easy to work with on things like changing the POs and doing amendments to the purchase orders.”*