



## **General introduction and the use of automated picking systems for packages and unit dose systems**

**Thessaloniki, Dr. Knoth**

**21/04/2012**

# University Hospital Dresden in numbers

**1.320 beds**

**3.511 staff members**

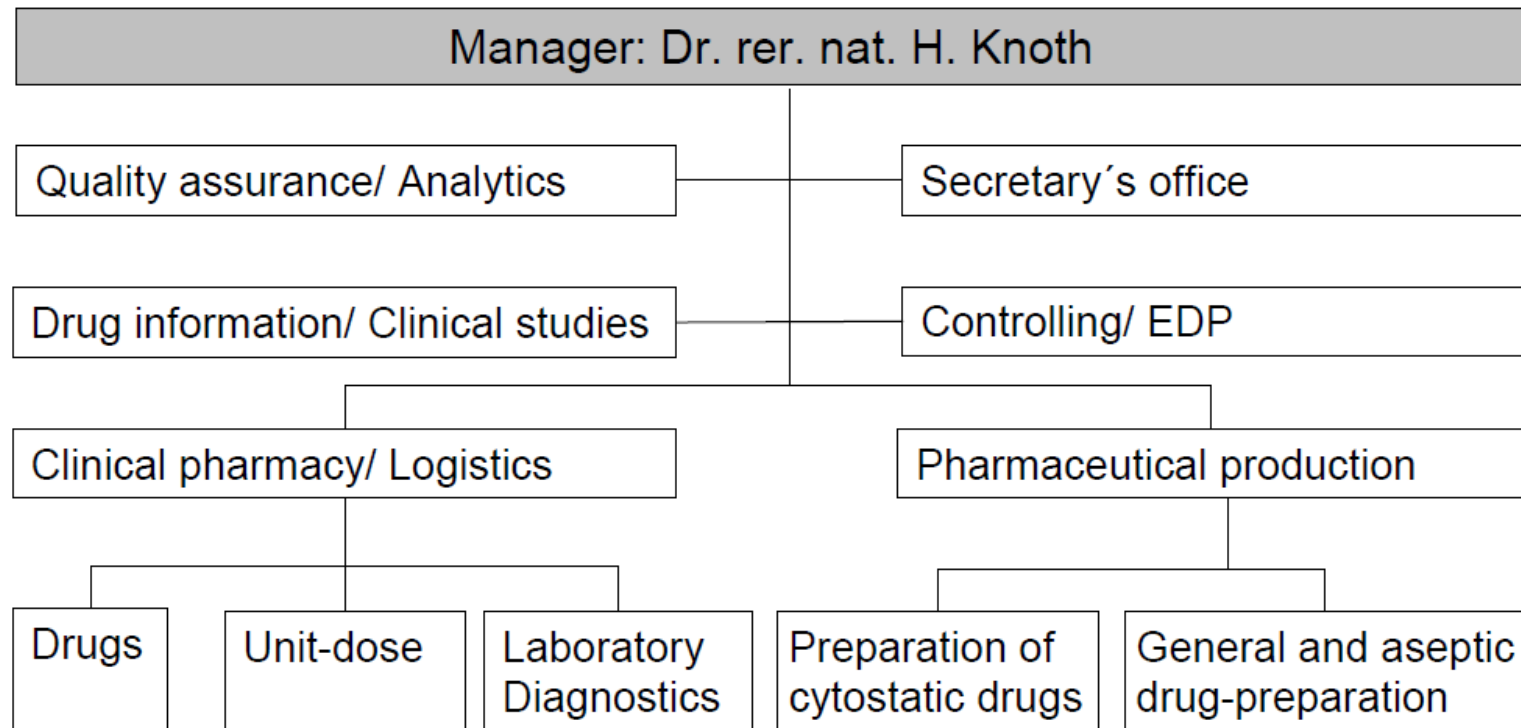
**51.659 inpatients per year**

**165.231 outpatients per year**

# Employed staff of the pharmacy at the University Hospital

profession	number
Pharmacists	18
Pharmacy engineers Pharmacy technicians	15
Pharmaceutical-commercial assistants	11
System administrator	1
Economist	1
Unskilled employees	6
Apprentices	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>

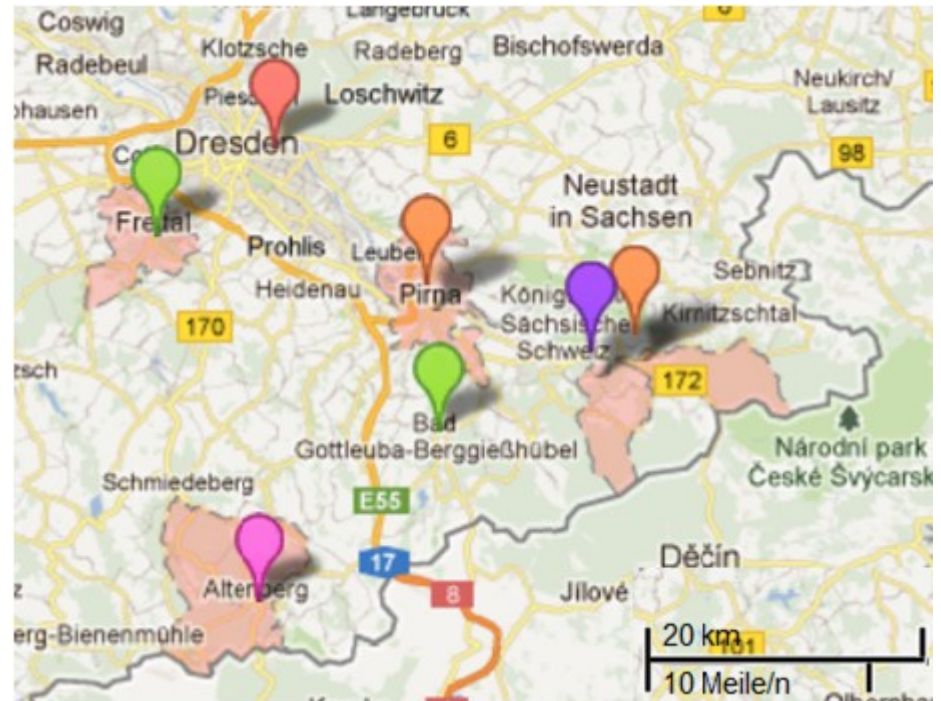
# Organisational chart



## Our performance (I)

### I ensuring an effective supply with medical products

- 1320 beds in UKD
- 1900 beds in other hospitals
  - Pirna
  - Freital
  - Bad Berggießhübel
  - Bad Schandau
  - Gohrisch
  - Altenberg
  - Gut Gamig



<http://maps.google.de/>

## Our performance (II)

- Controlling
- Drug information service
- Preparation of parenterals and other medical products
- Supervision of projects in pharmacy and medical research
- Medication service for clinical trials
- Supply of narcotics and other controlled drugs
- Sourcing of international registered medicines (§73/ 3 AMG)
- Dispensing of OTC-products to employees of UKD

## Research topics

- electrochemical behavior of drugs (i.e. polarography)
- HPLC, plasma levels and stability of drugs
- filters for parenterals
- pharmacoepidemiology
- strategies for prevention of medication errors
- antimycotic drugs

## Medication service for clinical trials

- about 120 clinical trials conducted in our hospital every year
- special licence for the preparation of drugs used in clinical trials (§13 German drug law)
- products are used in the whole of Germany und Europe (IIT for special centres – KKS)
- special services for pharmaceutical manufacturers conducting small scale trials



## decision criteria for an automated system

- I it depends on
  - legal regulations
  - available space
  - financial resources
  - number of supplied wards
  - sufficient members of staff
  - historic development of pharmacy services



Picture [www.floridaipblog.com](http://www.floridaipblog.com)

# The “six rights” for medication administration

- right patient
- right medication
- right route
- right dose
- right time
- right documentation



Zukunftspapier des Bundesverbandes Deutscher Krankenhausapotheker (ADKA) e. V.

## different ways to accomplish these aims

automated picking systems for packages		patient-oriented picking systems	
semiautomatic	fully automatic	picking in advance	patient individualised picking
Kardex	Apostore	Swisslog	Baxter
Axon	Rowa	KRZ	Robotik
		Pyxis	Dijkstra



automated picking systems for packages

# Stock flow

- gravity fed storage system
- combination of sloping trays and horizontal drawers
- wide range of modular components
- easily adapted for variations and changing requirements
- efficient storage
- ergonomic workbenches available
- convenient and accurate display of drugs
- “First-in First-out” principle
- basis for semiautomatic picking systems





# Kardex

- path-optimized picking
- Pick To Light Technology consists of four basic functions
  - Picking of a specific or active item.
  - Placing the item in an active order or location.
  - Communicating a message such as quantity, description, etc.
  - Completing the task and moving on to the next job.
- price about 50 000 €



## pick-to-light products

### I TIC (Transaction Information Center)

- discrete item identification (1/10 inch increments)
- communicates descriptions, quantities and other messages

### I Light Tower

- consists of extruded columns and display modules
- indicates the active carousel, shelf level, cell location and quantity to pick
- often placed in between two carousels

### I Put Lights

- lights that direct an operator to “put” items in a specific location
- indicate the quantity and description of items
- ideal for consolidation, batch picking and sortation of applications



# Batch flow

## I work flow

- incoming orders are processed to one batch
- manual picking of the packs (paperless)
- transport on a conveyor belt to a sorter (splits back into original orders)
- software-based scanning (end control)
- filling of the assigned boxes and carts

## I effectiveness depends on the performance of individual staff members ( 👤 approx. 750 picks/hr;

👤 👤 👤 2000 picks/hr; 👤 👤 4000 packets in 2,5-3 hr)

## I advantages

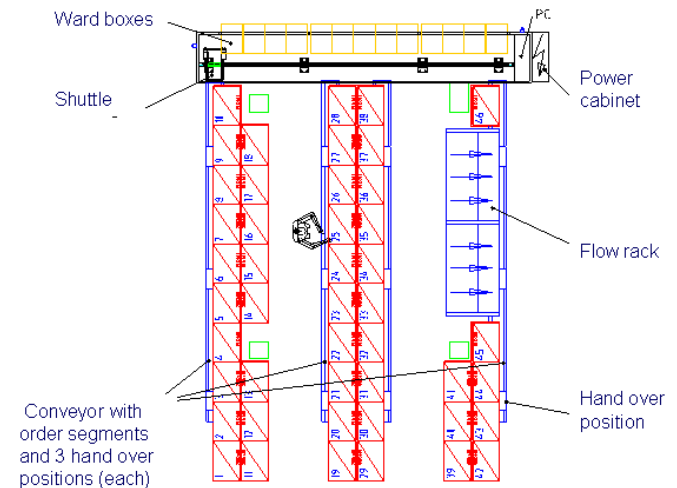
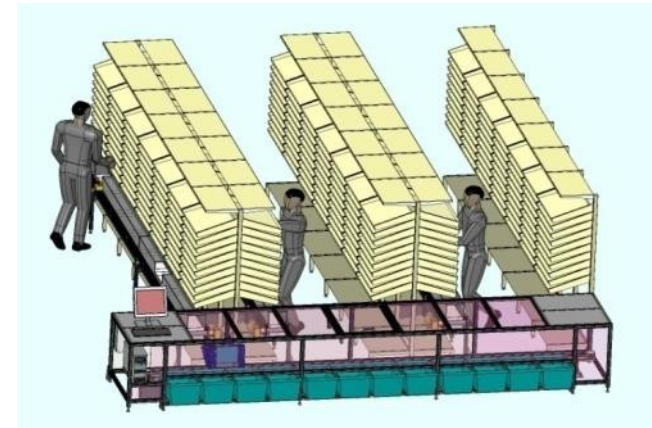
- nearly every item can be processed
- alphabetic storage can be maintained
- in a way indifferent to IT-system and power failure
- quick installation (4-5 days), short initial supervision (2 – 3 days)





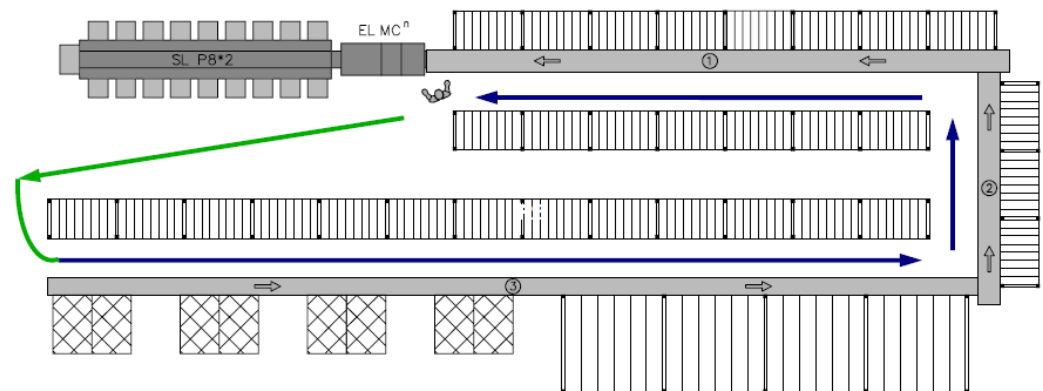
# Pharma-Flo-System

- stock flow storage
- manual picking on a conveyor belt into a box
- speed of the conveyor belt: 70 cm/sec
- performance 1 sec/pack
- four hour training session, while the system is put into operation
- full manual operation in case of an emergency (e.g. power loss)
- able to support the 2-D/GS1 standard
- picking of many products which cannot be picked by automated systems, but not suitable for all drugs (i.e. cool stored packs)
- producer: P@P Picking Systems
- price about 50 000 €



# Axon

- batch order picking
- order picking with handhelds
- optical classification in size, outlines and colours and also recognition of special features like labels, icons and barcodes
- check point for outgoing goods and recording of incoming returned goods
- speed of transport: 0,5 m/sec
- throughput: 3 000 objects/hr
- recognition time: 1 sec
- price about 50 000 €



# Fully automated picking systems for packages

## Apostore 3000



- patient oriented dispensing
- average 2 packs per order line
- broken pack handling
- fully automated loading
- best degree on article handling

## Carryfix Pusher



- patient oriented dispensing
- ward box dispensing
- approx. 5 packs per order line
- limited article spectrum
- integrated material flow management

# Apostore 3000

- Maximum Dimensions: 17,25 x 1,80 x 3,60 m (LxWxH)
- Pack's capacity: up to 50.000 Packages  
up to 100.000 Packages with Capacity Extension Unit
- Pack's Input: automatic loading with 450 packs/hr
- Output performance: 1 000 packs/hr based on average 2 packs per order line
- Reliable handling based on special gripper technique
- Wide range of packing sizes (15 x 15 x 35 mm – 120 x 140 x 240; weight: max. 1.200 g)  
approx. 98% of Rx products
- plenty accessories (conveyors, elevators, spiral chutes, falling towers, funnels etc.)
- Price about 300 000 €



# Carryfix Pusher

- | Maximum Dimension: 12,00 x 2,50 x 3,20 m (LxWxH) one-liner  
 12,00 x 5,00 x 3,20 m (LxWxH) two-liner
- | Pack's capacity: up to 40.000 Packs in one-liner  
 up to 80.000 Packs in two-liner
- | Pack's input: Automatic operation  
 1.000 Packs/hr for one-liner  
 1.500 Packs/hr for two-liner
- | Dispensing performance: (for 3 items/order line)  
 1.500 Packs/hr for one-liner  
 2.250 Packs/hr for two-liner
- | Degree of article handling: approx. 85% of hospital pharmacy article
- | Less staff needed
- | Automatic Stock and dynamic storage channel control
- | Integrated manual dispensing from different stock areas
- | Integrated box control system
- | Price about 500 000€





## Rowa V<sub>max</sub>

- dimension: 3 -15 m length, 1.30-1.60 m width, different heights
- storage capacity: up to 60.000 packs
- fully automated input of up to 900 packages/hr
- output speed up to 2,000 packs/hr
- recording of batches and expiry dates
- different certifications
- noise pressure level of 48.3 dB(A)
- refrigerated unit, second belt etc. also available
- price about 300 000 €



## disadvantages and advantages

- occasionally low input speed (especially semiautomatic systems)
  - time-consuming control of expiry dates
  - legal accreditation by the responsible authority
  - time and effort for data management, supervision and service of the machine
  - further training of the staff required
- 
- significant error rate reduction
  - decreased picking time
  - optimized utilization of the available space

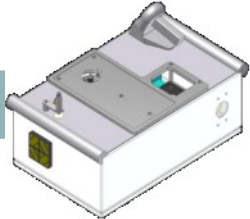


## patient-oriented picking systems

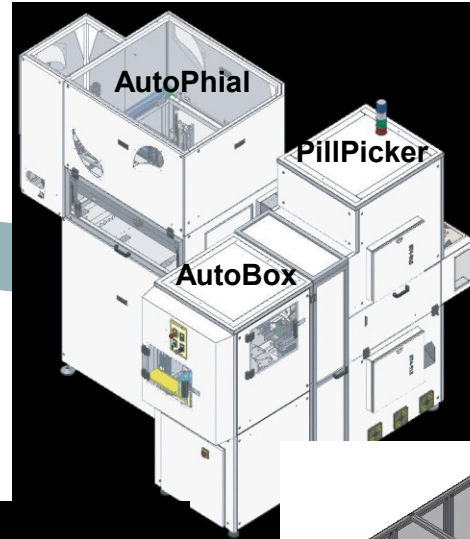


# Swisslog PillPick System

**BoxStation**  
Filling/recording station



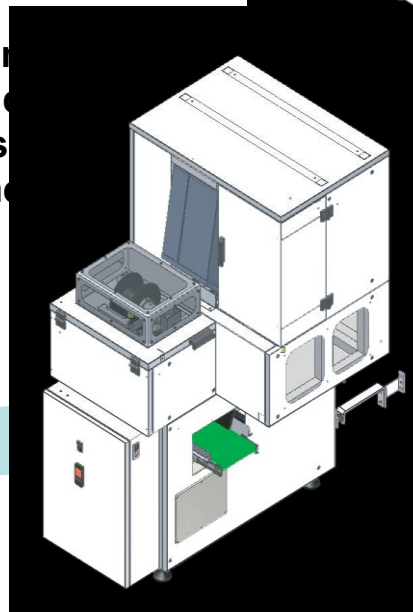
**PillBox / PhialBox**  
Locked canisters for loading of medications into packaging station



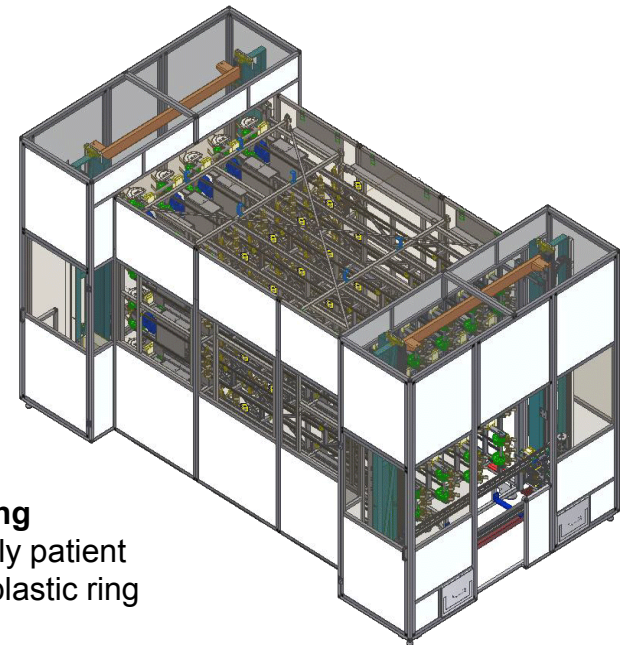
**Packaging station**  
Drugs are packaged in unit dose bags, with a printed barcode containing all the drug information



The right patient  
receives the right drug  
in the right dose  
at the right time



**PickRing**  
Dispenses daily patient medication into a plastic ring



mated  
coded

## I BoxStation

- to fill canister with drugs, register the drug information to the canister chip (TAG) and print sticker labels for visual identification of canisters content



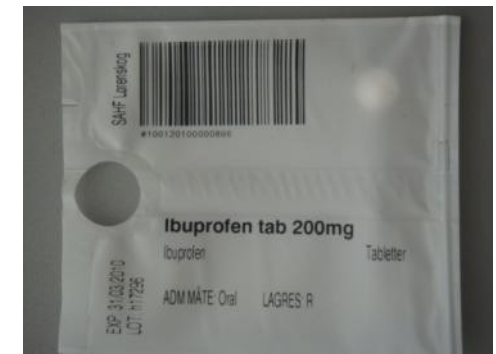
## I PillBox and PhialBox

- for medication in bulks (PillBox), blisters, vials, syringes etc.
- content is recorded with the RFID tag



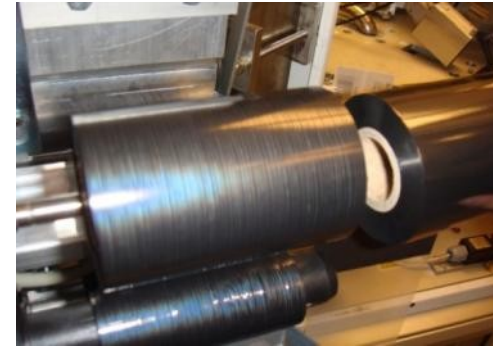
## I PillPicker

- able to produce single doses
- different dimensions of the bags (modifying the length according to the assorted drug)
- bags have unique barcode and information about medication printed on them



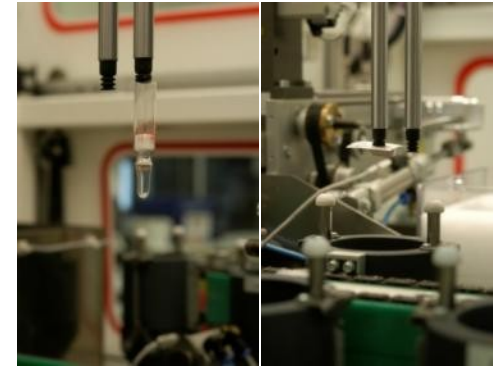
## I PillPicker Consumables

- 250-meters-long polypropylene roll to produce 2500 bags
- thermal transfer of an ink ribbon (200 meters long and follows film consumption)



## I AutoPhial

- automatic loading of vials, ampoules, blisters, cups, suppositories
- optional blister cutter for automated loading and cutting of multidose blisters



## I AutoBox

- buffer for up to 12 PillBoxes to be loaded into PillPicker
- PillBoxes are automatically transferred from AutoBox to PillPicker if it is required
- PillBoxes are automatically expelled when the production is finished



## I DrugNest

- automated “multifunction” storage system for bags produced by PillPicker
- 4 different types of DrugNest to be part of a complete PillPick System
- double loading- and unloading robot
- 8-to-24 conveyor belt sizes; a maximum of ten bags are stored on one pin
- each conveyor has 3 “levels”, 2 for short bags, 1 for long bags
- DrugNest with typical dimensions can store up to 5 – 7 days of stock
- re-load into DrugNest through return window is possible

Model	Pins quantity (drug types number)	Theoretical storage capacity	Real Storage capacity (based on 65% occupancy)
19L20	2.640	26.400	17.160
19L24	3.168	31.680	20.592
33L20	4.440	44.400	28.860
33L24	5.328	53.280	34.632



## ■ PickRing

- collects all the single dose bags for one patient and binds them together with a plastic ring
  - number of bags per plastic ring depends on the therapy order and the dimension of the drugs
  - pre-perforated label (patient data and drug list) is attached to the ring as well as the drugs
  - plastic cord to produce rings (200 meter long roll can produce about 800 rings)
  - patient labels come in rolls of 450
  - to print patient labels the same ribbon is used as for the PillPicker
- Price about 1 000 000 €





## KRZ Multiblist

- horizontal packer
- pre cut blister packer, big sizes
- packaging of the medication treatment
- packaging of cut medication and multiple specialities
- hermetic sealing
- speed: 2.500 units/hr
- low maintenance
- direct printing on the terminal film (integrated icons and forms possible)
- consumables: two rolls (thermal aluminium and colour)
- price about 15 000 €



pictures [www.krz.es](http://www.krz.es)

## Pyxis MedStation ES

- automated dispensing system for a decentralized medication management
- one system formulary through integration of the Pyxis into the Pharmacy Information System
- access to comprehensive medication and patient information is located in one place
- barcode scanning
- prevents loading of wrong medication
- active alerts for high risk medication
- Price: 20.000 € (MedStation 3500)



Picture <http://www.carefusion.com>

## Three generations of Baxter Unit Dose systems



1987 - 2000: ATC 212 SYSTEM

2000 - 2010: FDS 330/520 SYSTEM



Since 2010 : FDS II PROUD 260/336 SYSTEM





## Technical data FDS 330-/520 systems

Producer	YUYAMA (JAPAN)
Capacity	330 or 520 cassettes
Dispensing speed	40-45 packs/minute
Printing mode	Thermal Printing
Dispensing of less used tablets	DTA-Tray
life expectancy	Min. 15 years
Price about	200 000 €



## FDS II PROUD 260/336 systems

- different facilities with 260 or 260 + 76 cassettes slots available
- identification of cassettes and medication through RFID
- refill of cassettes on a scanable drawer and scanable medication packaging
- easily accessible row of cassettes and funnels
- dispensing of unit dose and/or multi dose possible
- price about 170 000 €



## DTA-Tray

- special way for picking less used medication (i.e. divided or effervescent tablets)
- 63 slots per tray, but infinite trays per order
- faster processing with new types of DTA-Trays
- theoretical dispensing speed: 60 packs/min
- net dispensing speed: 30-35 packs/min



## Cassettes

- individually produced and calibrated for each drug (more than one cassette can be calibrated for the same drug)
- matching of drawers and cassettes through individual barcodes
- available in different sizes



# Packs

- Multi Dose, Combi Dose or Unit Dose possible
- Different packaging sizes  
(60, 70, (76), 80, 90 mm)
- Length of the roll 420 meters
- Environmental friendly and hygienic material
- Ribbon (Cartridge-cassettes)
- Printing of barcodes etc.
- Text is sent as bitmap file
- Quality certificates exist (GMP)





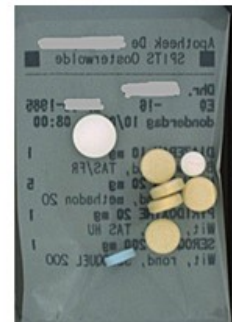
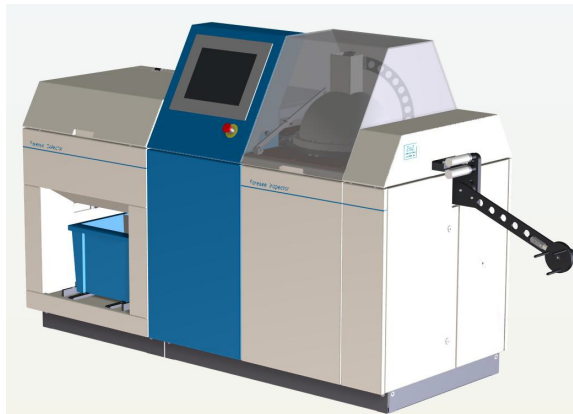
## Which kind of information can you print on the packs?

- Patient name or number
- Patient picture (optional)
- Date of birth
- Hospital ward, room number
- Time of administration
- Medication and dosage
- Name of the drug/ means of identification
- Directions of use
- Lot number und expiring date
- Barcode (Scan for Safety)
- Emblem of the pharmacy

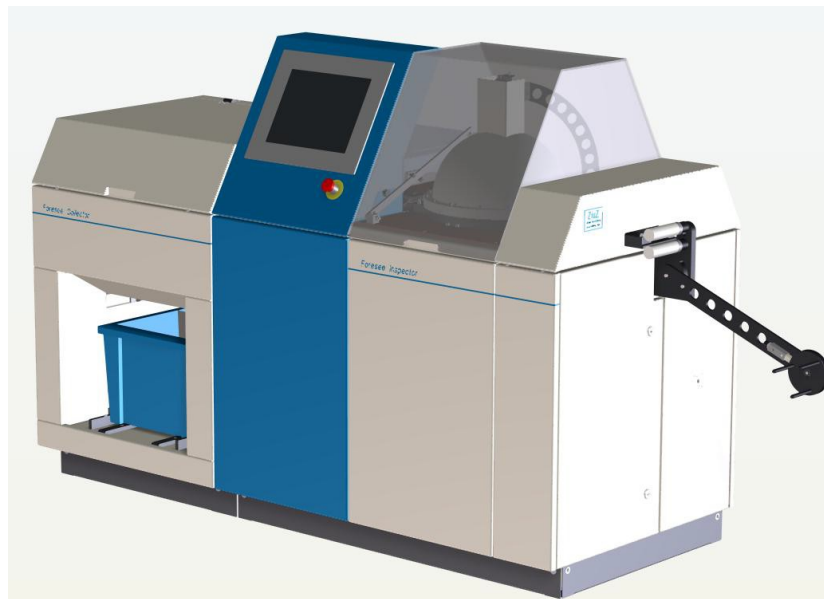


## ZiuZ Foresee Inspector

- optic control element
- counts and identifies dispensed medication
- picture of the front and backside of the pack (two cameras)
- automatic matching of taken picture (identity and amount) with master image (calibration required)
- image can be saved for documentation
- error statistic can be evaluated
- processing speed equivalent to the output of 2 FDS machines



- problems we are facing at the moment
  - a lot of false error messages
  - time consuming
  - technical limits of identification (limited picture definition)





## Robotik 5000

Capacity (fixed + variable canisters bases)	500 (440 + 60)
Dispensing speed	Maximum 60 packs/min
Printing mode	Thermal Printing - Printing service for selected contents (Specified Form)
Dispensing of less used tablets	FSP (Free Shape Packing System) or MDU (Manual Device Unit) FSP: 3 bowl / MDU: 24 cells
Dimensions	1098(W) * 1080 (D) * 2040 (H)
System weight	About 850 kg
Environment	Temperature : 10-40° C/ Humidity 10-80%
Noise standards	< 85 db (5 Aeration fans)
Price about	150 000 €



Picture [www.robotiktechnology.com](http://www.robotiktechnology.com)

## Dijkstra

- compatible with all commonly used hospital and pharmacy information systems, patient management as well as warehouse and accounting systems
- automatic cassette recognition system for time-saving changing of medicines (cassettes can be replaced on every drawer)
- photo-optic and fully automated checking of the pre-packed rations for compliance with the prescription plus reporting in the form of pictures and text (optional)
- authorization system RFID operating on the basis of magnetic cards and reporting of the accesses which occurred



# Dijkstra

Cassette capacity	up to 500
Dimensions W x D x H	up to 1087 x 1207 x 2317
Weight (without cassettes)	up to 1,160 kg
Pouch sizes (in mm)	70 x 75 / 70 x 55 / 70 x 45
Maximum working rate	Single dose: 60 packs/min multi-dose: 50 packs/min
Printing system	Thermal transfer system
Dispensing of less used tablets	DTA
Manual STS capacity	60 doses/1 tray
Price about	150 000 €



# Florence on the Elbe







## Thank you for your attention

### **Address:**

Universitätsklinikum Carl Gustav Carus  
at the TU Dresden AöR  
Klinik Apotheke  
Fetscherstraße 74, 01307 Dresden  
Germany

### **Contact**

Dr. Holger Knoth  
Telefon: +49-351-458-2330  
Telefax: +49-351-458-4337  
[holger.knoth@uniklinikum-dresden.de](mailto:holger.knoth@uniklinikum-dresden.de)