

BT Trans Choose for “Rollers”



Anyone who work with rolling material daily, choose logically for a rolling solution, as well. Logistics Service Provider BT Trans of Arnhem (The Netherlands) has chosen to pack its heavy-duty truck tires with RollerForks. This saves the company not only difficult lifting and carrying, but is also safer and more efficient.

Every night is rush hour in the warehouse of BT Trans in Arnhem. Huge numbers of tires come and just as quickly go in the wee hours from the transfer point in the provincial capital. “As part of Parts Express, we handle this portion of the distribution to the various car dealerships and car companies throughout the Netherlands,” explains coordinator Wout Karsijns of BT Trans. “The number of tires varies, but usually ranges between 2,000 and 3,000.”

When it involves tires for passenger vehicles, the nightly turnover is fairly routine. The tires come into the warehouse stacked in racks on pallets and are unloaded quickly and efficiently with the forklift. For trucks and heavy 4x4 tires, however, that is a whole other story. Those are stacked or lying scattered around the truck. “We have to first put a block under them to get them on the fork,” Karsijns continues. “If you then had it on the fork and brought it to the warehouse, you then had to deal with the next question: How do you get it off again? While loading, we face the same question once again.

Wout Karsijns: “The best part is that we can use the truck with RollerForks for pallets too.”



Turning the tire and placing it on the pallet was an option, but that is not as simple as you might think, because some tires weigh more than 150 kg (300 lbs.).”

For this reason, BT Trans contemplated purchasing a hydraulic roll clamp with which to pick up the heavy rubber. This option had two clear downsides: A serious investment price for a transport system that could only be used to that specific function. Wout Karsijns:

“Heavy tires make up less than ten percent of our overall turnover. For such a small percentage you’d rather not have a forklift stand idle for 90 percent of the time.”

In a trade journal, Karsijns read about RollerForks and became interested in the system. Shortly thereafter, when RollerForks once again came up in a conversation during meetings with Toyota Material Handling Netherlands, the purchase was soon made.

“We needed extra trucks in any case and Toyota also liked the idea of its application with heavy tires,” Karsijns says. “In less than a week, we had a test lift in-house to practice with. The guys got the hang of it in no time. This was a really good solution to our problem. Thanks in part to the professional attitude of Toyota, the right advice, and an attractive price, the deal was made in no time.” To expand its fleet, Toyota Material Handling Netherlands delivered two electric pallet trucks, a hand pallet truck with weighing system and printer, and a compact BT Cargo C3R 150 with RollerForks. This useful aid for pallet-less transportation rolls easily under heavy tires, and unloading too is a piece of cake. Just lower the fork to the ground and back up. It’s just as easy as it sounds.

RollerForks Prize-Winning Concept

RollerForks are a development of Meijer Special Equipment in St. Jacobiparochie (The Netherlands), well known as producers of the hydraulic lift truck forks called KOOI- REACHFORKS®. The new product was introduced to the public for the first time at the Logistica 2003 trade fair, and was immediately crowned with the Dutch Logistica Award. A few months later, the system landed the InnovationAward from the Dutch Metal Union. The RollerForks principle is as simple as it is ingenious. The tapered forks have two rows of rollers one on top of the other. Upon contact with the work floor, the top row of rollers turn in the opposite direction of the fork movement, as a result of which a load is drawn onto the fork practically by itself. While lifting, the rollers drop down and lower the load so that they are stable on the fork. When setting down, the principle is exactly the opposite and the load rolls easily from the fork.

The RollerForks® have unique characteristics with regard to the familiar push-pull system. These characterizations are:

- No hydraulics needed on the RollerForks® or forklift.
- The actual weight of the RollerForks® is practically the same as standard lift truck forks.
- The driver’s visibility is not obstructed.
- No extra heavy capacity lift truck is required.
- The lift truck can also be used to perform standard lift truck tasks.
- Products can be placed on a pallet easily.
- Loading and unloading is faster than that of, for example, a push-pull system.
- Investment costs are lower.

For more information: www.mse-forks.com



Unloading with RollerForks is very fast.



RollerForks rolls easily under heavy tires.