

Augmented reality in logistics - new DHL report

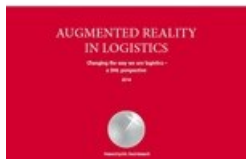
DHL's latest trend report identifies 11 potential augmented reality (AR) use cases in logistics, citing that wearables and AR enable higher efficiency as well as speed, resulting in an improved supply chain.

'Augmented Reality in Logistics' presents 11 different possible applications for the industry, among them improved picking in warehouses for example, by equipping staff with head mounted displays, they could find the right route and the right item more efficiently. The surplus in information would also reduce picking errors.



Enhanced view

The report focuses on possible applications of this emerging trend in the different stages of the supply chain. It illustrates how operations in warehouses, during transportation and last-mile delivery and value-added services could be enhanced by computer-generated sensory input such as videos or graphics.



AR - a live, direct or indirect, enhanced view of a real-world environment, whose elements are augmented by a computer-generated sensory - merges what's real and what's computer generated by adding layers of digital information, such as sounds, videos, graphics or GPS data, in the line of

vision with the use of a devices, such as glasses or smartphones.

"Recent developments such as heads-up displays on windshields or use of AR for vehicle repairs from the automotive sector shows how rapidly this technology is developing and finding its way into industries outside of the IT sector. We believe that the technology also offers significant potential for the logistics industry, and are currently selecting cases for further research," explains Charles Brewer, MD of DHL Express Sub Saharan Africa.

The trend report explains briefly the emerging trend and innovation in AR technology and hardware and how it can be implemented in logistics. It also provides an overview on best practices from various industries.

Perfected transportation

Brewer explains that the report also sketches how transportation could be perfected. "Delivery vehicles with augmented windshields could display real-time traffic data, as well as other valuable information, such as cargo temperature and alerts, thereby minimising driver distraction."



Moreover, drivers and staff at the parcel hub could be equipped with wearable devices to gain critical information on each parcel, such as contents, weight and destination. This would improve loading processes and reduce handling damages. Finally, AR could also improve maintenance and repair services offered by logistics providers if workers are equipped with smart glasses that blend in systematic instructions.

The trend report has been based on the overarching logistics trend radar, which the company uses to identify and leverage trends and technologies relevant for the logistics industry. The company is planning to test some of the derived use cases in proof of concept studies. To access the report, go to www.dhl.com/augmentedreality.