Save space, money and CO2

SpaceInvader doubled-stacked pallet racks lined up in terminal - and in truck before departure. ASKO Hedmark, Central Norway

ASKO, Norway's largest food distributor, has three key priorities when they send a delivery out on the road: the fill of the truck, the trip's effect on the bottom line, and its environmental footprint. That is why they always look for ways to increase their efficiency. With the pallet rack SpaceInvader, ASKO has found a solution that helps them meet all three priorities.

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No more empty air

The three key priorities all depend on optimising the cargo load, and with that comes also the central challenge. Far to many trucks make their trips with 'empty air' and do therefore not utilise the space in their hold or even reach their weight limit altogether.

ASKO is all too familiar with the issue. So when Space-Invader introduced them to the pallet rack, the "Space-Invader", which would allow them to double stack pallets and thereby stack goods higher, they quickly saw the potential for a collaboration.

"For a long time we have been looking for a system that will increase the cargo load of our trucks," Harald Brekke says. He is the Head of Distribution at ASKO's busy terminal in Central Norway, overlooking more than 250 employees. "When we were introduced to the SpaceInvader system, we saw a new opportunity. It has been really interesting to help SpaceInvader finish their final development of the rack and test it for a few months in a real-world environment."

> We have saved 20% in our number of trucks used – that is significant. That is in fact thousands of kroner saved in transportation costs on that route alone."
>
> **Svein Sollie**
> Director of Distribution, ASKO Norway

Sending more, spending less

The pallet rack was put into use on a single route that ASKO identified as best suited for test. The route Trondheim-Mo i Rana is almost 500 kilometers long, and a return trip takes three days. Every day ASKO sends a truck on the route, and it is therefore a route that carries significant cost for every truck sent.

"Here in Norway, we drive long distances, and we plan to fill the truck as much as possible. That is vital in reducing both transportation costs and our environmental footprint", says Svein Sollie, Director of Distribution, from his office in Oslo at ASKO's headquarters.

SpaceInvader's pallet rack was tested for six months at ASKO's terminal in Central Norway and Harald Brekke is pleased with the results.

"We are very pleased with what we have seen so far," says Brekke, and notes how the rack has helped safely double stacking their pallets. "We have many low pallets, and so we generally struggle to double stack them, but with SpaceInvader we have found a solution that works really well".

Double stacking of goods
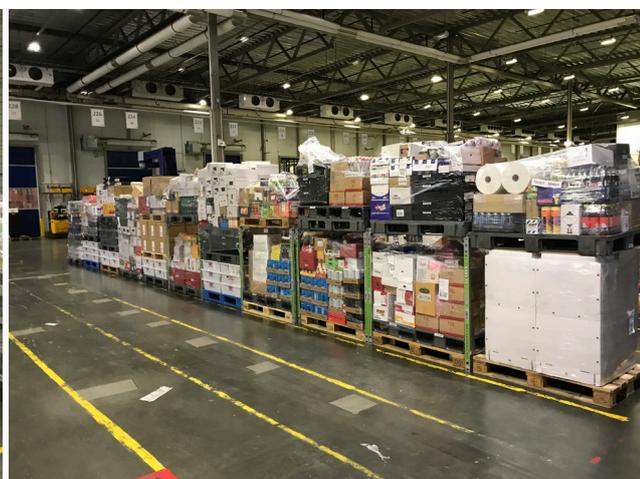
Double stacked pallets - ready for delivery

Maximum hight with double stacking during transport

Combatting the leftover pallet

ASKO expects the pallet rack to help them eliminate their use of so-called "leftover" pallets, meaning pallets that cannot fit on the truck, and therefore have to be put on another, separate truck and driven on its own. A practice both expensive and inefficient, but now, thankfully, also history thanks to the pallet rack.

"It's our ambition to send a full truck on the shortest route possible," says Brekke. "With the SpaceInvader-rack we are able to fill the truck. The route may be just as long, but where we previously had to send two trucks, everything now fits onto one. That is a big benefit right there".

The improved efficiency also shows directly on the bottom line. By double stacking pallets and filling their trucks better, ASKO has actually saved one out of five weekly transports on the primary test route Trondheim-Mo i Rana.

"We have saved 20% in our number of trucks used, and that is significant," says Sollie. "That is in fact thousands of kroner saved in transportation costs on that route alone".

> "Less strain on the environment, lowering of costs, and a more efficient transportation."
>
> **Harald Brekke**
> Head of Distribution, ASKO, Central Norway

For the good of the environment

Sending one truck less a week has an immediate and positive effect on ASKO's costs and efficiency, but also the environmental benefits. And the environment has been close to ASKO's heart for the past 10 years.

ASKO's terminals all have solar panels on their roofs, and ASKO has also just ordered 10 electric TESLA trucks for their fleet. Many of their trucks also run on bioethanol or hydrogen for fuel, and by 2020, it is ASKO's ambition to be completely environmentally neutral. Every environmental initiative is important to ASKO, and so are the opportunities afforded by the SpaceInvader rack.

"We always ask the same questions of every new proposal: is there an environmental benefit and effect? The rack helps us fill our trucks better, and there we see the environmental effect," says Brekke. "Less strain on the environment, lowering of costs, and a more efficient transportation".

About SpaceInvader

The pallet rack, "SpaceInvader" , is manufactured by SpaceInvader, founded in 2015. With its patented design, the rack makes it possible to double stack pallets safely, quickly and efficiently, thereby making it easier to achieve a greater cargo load. The rack is made from aluminum, which makes it lightweight, durable, and easy to recycle.

About the solution

The modular pallet rack system 'SpaceInvader' is produced by the Danish company SpaceInvader, founded 2015. With its patented design, the system delivers a greater load factor in your transport operations through easy, safe and efficient double stacking of pallet cargo. The pallet racks are available in two standard heights, 80 cm and 120 cm - and can be lifted from all four sides of the pallet. The racks are made from 100% recyclable, light and durable aluminium and traceable with GS1 barcode and RFID. SpaceInvader delivers value throughout your supply chain, improves ergonomics and reduces the climate and environmental footprint from road transport.

Specifications

Slip resistant platform for toplift

Holes for lashing

GS1 GRAI barcode

Holes for lashing

Notches for bottom lift

20 racks stacked on EUR pallet

Weight	
120 cm rack	9.9 kg
80 cm rack	8.6 kg
Width	79 cm

Load limits

	Load conditions top/bottom	Standing on floor	With top lifting	With bottom lift

Green 120 cm

Max. 1x weight on top — 1000 kg / No limit — 500 kg / 500 kg LIFT — 500 kg / No limit LIFT

Blue 80 cm

Max. 1.3x weight on top (x1,3) — 1000 kg / No limit — 650 kg / 500 kg LIFT — 650 kg / No limit LIFT

SpaceInvader is also available in variable heights for goods up to 150 cm height.