

# How a Global Medical Device Manufacturer Selected a Cloud-Ready WMS for 50+ Distribution Centers

## 1 Introduction

A global leader in medical technology operates in more than 60 countries and serves customers in over 140 markets through an extensive worldwide distribution network. As part of its ongoing digital transformation strategy, the organization recognized that its aging warehouse management system could no longer support future growth, global standardization, or evolving technology requirements.

To modernize its warehouse operations and establish a scalable global platform, the company partnered with Alpine Supply Chain Solutions to lead a comprehensive warehouse management system (WMS) selection initiative.

## 2 Challenges

The organization's legacy WMS had been in place for more than 15 years and was built on outdated technology that could no longer be upgraded. Years of extensive customization had created high maintenance costs, increased reliance on the software vendor, and introduced compliance and support challenges. As a result, the system lacked the flexibility needed to support the organization's evolving global supply chain.

Compounding the challenge, the company's worldwide distribution network included more than 50 facilities operating with different warehouse systems, processes, and levels of automation.

## 3 Solutions

Leadership wanted to standardize operations on a single global WMS platform capable of supporting everything from highly manual warehouses to fully automated distribution centers while maintaining strict regulatory compliance for product traceability, serialization, and recall readiness.

Another significant consideration involved selecting between an on-premise and cloud-based architecture. While many stakeholders initially favored maintaining an on-premise environment, the software marketplace had shifted toward cloud-first solutions.

The organization needed confidence that a cloud platform could deliver the scalability, security, performance, and long-term flexibility required for its global operations.

Alpine Supply Chain Solutions led a structured, globally aligned WMS selection process that balanced technical evaluation with stakeholder collaboration across multiple regions. The team began by refining thousands of business requirements into a focused set of critical capabilities, simplifying the evaluation process and enabling software providers to clearly demonstrate how their solutions addressed the organization's operational needs.

The selection process progressed through multiple evaluation phases, including vendor screening, detailed solution demonstrations, technical architecture reviews, and global stakeholder validation. Alpine evaluated each platform based on functional capabilities, technical architecture, deployment methodology, integration performance, scalability, and total cost of ownership.



## 4 Implementation

A key focus throughout the engagement was identifying a platform that minimized future customization while providing the flexibility to support unique operational requirements.

Alpine also helped the organization evaluate cloud-based architectures through detailed performance reviews, vendor roadmap assessments, and scalability analyses, allowing leadership to confidently transition from legacy technology to a modern cloud-first platform.

Alpine facilitated collaborative workshops involving operations, information technology, quality, and regional leadership teams to ensure the final decision reflected the needs of the organization's global business rather than individual locations. The team coordinated software demonstrations, validated vendor capabilities, and helped stakeholders evaluate how each solution would perform across facilities with varying levels of automation and operational complexity.

As part of the evaluation, software providers demonstrated integration capabilities with enterprise systems, transportation management platforms, and advanced material handling technologies, ensuring the selected solution could support both existing operations and future automation initiatives. Throughout negotiations, Alpine maintained multiple qualified vendor options, providing the organization with additional leverage while reducing implementation risk.



The selection process ultimately resulted in a modern cloud-based warehouse management system capable of supporting the organization's global distribution network while providing the scalability, flexibility, and long-term sustainability required for continued business growth.



## 5 Results

The warehouse management system selection established a unified global technology strategy capable of supporting more than 50 distribution centers with varying levels of automation and operational complexity. By adopting a cloud-based, extensible platform, the organization gained a modern warehouse management foundation that met information technology standards while reducing long-term maintenance costs and dependence on custom software development. The streamlined evaluation process reduced business requirements by nearly 90%, significantly accelerating vendor evaluations and decision-making.

Collaboration across multiple global regions also ensured broad organizational alignment and stakeholder buy-in throughout the selection process.

Most importantly, the new platform provides standardized warehouse processes, stronger regulatory compliance, improved automation integration, and a lower total cost of ownership.

The organization successfully replaced an aging legacy system with a scalable warehouse management solution designed to support global operations, continuous innovation, and long-term supply chain growth for the next 10–15 years.

