AUTOMATED GUIDED VEHICLE (AGV)

Automated guided vehicles (AGVs) are vehicles that have been programmed to a routine of activities and use sensors to guide their motion through a defined space. The control of the vehicle through routines are updated with information from sensors within the physical space and/or attached to the vehicle. The AGVs can also exchange data and information to and from the factory's physical inventory.

A common application for Automated guided vehicles (AGVs) is for the automated loading and inventory control of large creel systems. Modern carbon fibre lines, for example, make use of large creel packages, up to 500kg per package, with upward of 400 positions in the creel. AGVs can be used to load these large creels and minimise the amount of physical labour required. For such a system the frequency of creel changeover and the time desired for reloading the creel become critical factors for the design of the system and the selection of an AGV.

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A few examples of AGV systems and their applications include:

- Storage into and retrieval from refrigeration for B-Stage prepreg materials
- Ultra heavy load management for PAN precursor packages
- Placement and retrieval of 500kg boxes into a box creel

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