INVENTOPIA 2025

FBM-SEREMBAN INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION COMPETITION (FBM-SIIC)

INNOVATION IN ACTION: TURNING IDEAS INTO REALITY

Chapter 38
ForkMatic (Automated Railed Forklift)

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ABSTRACT

The development of ForkMatic, an AI-powered rail-mounted autonomous forklift, addresses key challenges in warehouse operations by automating material handling tasks. Unlike traditional manual forklifts, ForkMatic enhances safety and productivity by minimizing human errors and reducing dependency on skilled operators. The system integrates seamlessly with Warehouse Management Systems (WMS) to provide real-time updates on inventory, improving stock tracking and order fulfillment times. With a focus on reducing labor costs, increasing operational efficiency, and ensuring precise material handling, ForkMatic is a scalable solution suitable for various sectors including logistics, retail, and healthcare. Its design prioritizes sustainability through the use of energy-efficient components and recyclable materials, making it an eco-friendly choice for modern warehouses.

Keywords: Autonomous forklift, warehouse automation, AI-powered systems, real-time inventory, Warehouse Management Systems.

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest impacts of automation's growth is on warehouse and logistics management, which has changed the way many firms operate. To satisfy this growing demand, we are introducing ForkMatic, a brand-new AI-powered rail-mounted forklift solution. ForkMatic is a rail-mounted autonomous forklift truck equipped with an AI image scanner and video barcode for efficient item delivery, sorting, and detection. ForkMatic works freely, ensuring constant workflow, avoiding accidents, and significantly boosting output in contrast to conventional warehouse forklifts that are completely reliant on humans and prone to many input errors.

The product's business opportunity is huge. Because it is cost-effective and readily flexible with only little changes to the present structure, it is extremely suitable for third-party logistics as well as retail, healthcare, and manufacturing. This is particularly

relevant for strategically minded businesses, as this technology reduces the need for human labor, reduces the expenses associated with injuries, and improves production through value recovery. ForkMatic automated volumetric fork lifting and creates exact, safer, smarter, and more effective warehouses as businesses strive to modernize their businesses. This makes it intelligent, flexible, and forward compatible.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

As the global demand for faster and more reliable logistics increases, companies are constantly under increasing pressure to enhance their material handling systems. However, warehouse operators nowadays mostly operate manually that mainly cause inefficiency and safety risks in manual forklift operations. This creates a few issues that arise such as human error, slow operations and the safety of the workers. In response to that, accidents can occur easily due to misjudgement, which would lead to the goods getting damaged. Furthermore, constant readjustment and reliance on operator experience prolong loading and unloading times.

The second critical issue is the high dependence on skilled forklift operators, companies nowadays are dependent on their trained forklift operators in order to ensure that the goods supplied are safe and secured. This increases the demand for experienced operators, which not only raises labor costs as the constant need in having to hire new operators and training them is time consuming and requires a lot of resources that could damage the company's budget. Besides, this also creates problems during peak seasons and in situations where there is a shortage of trained staff.

3. OBJECTIVES

ForkMatic was created to overcome challenges in warehousing by automating repetitive tasks. With the growing importance of warehouses in logistics, ForkMatic helps improve operations, management, and adapts to industry needs. The goal of ForkMatic is to increase warehouse efficiency. Research by Sodiya et al. (2024) shows that automation systems reduce human errors, streamline processes, and improve time management. ForkMatic moves and organizes items faster and more accurately than manual methods (Chaudhari, 2019). It allows employees to focus on value-adding tasks, boosting productivity without overburdening workers.

ForkMatic also improves warehouse management with real-time inventory updates. It synchronizes with the central inventory system, reducing stock tracking errors (Jamila, 2025). The rise of e-commerce and demand for faster delivery drove the development of automation systems like ForkMatic. Raj & Thandayudhapani (2024) report that faster delivery expectations have increased pressure on logistics companies. ForkMatic operates 24/7 with high efficiency, reducing labor costs and speeding up material handling to meet e-commerce demands (Chaudhari, 2019).

4. PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

The Automated Rail-Based Forklift is an intelligent material handling device designed to operate along fixed rail tracks in industrial and warehouse settings. Its constrained movement along predetermined routes improves safety, reduces human errors, and boosts efficiency in densely packed storage areas. Equipped with sensors, automatic controls, and accurate navigation, the forklift ensures secure load handling, lowers the risk of collisions and unnecessary idling, and can seamlessly integrate with existing warehouse management systems. Perfect for repetitive transportation tasks, this technology offers a low-maintenance and dependable alternative to traditional free-moving forklifts.

5. NOVELTY

The rail-guided forklift is notable for its focus on energy efficiency, safety, and intelligent technology, all of which are adapted to the demands of contemporary warehouses. The use of path-guided rails, which keep the forklift on a predetermined path while minimizing mistakes and collisions and maximizing accuracy and navigation through sophisticated software and sensors, is what distinguishes it. Its sturdy, low-maintenance, puncture-resistant airless polyurethane tires allow for minimal downtime and maximum efficiency. Powered by a lithium-ion battery, it is less harmful to the environment, has a longer lifespan, and charges quickly. The system is adaptable and scalable, making it ideal for expanding companies or evolving warehouse designs.

Its intelligent control system makes it simple to integrate with warehouse management systems (WMS) and supports data-driven operations, real-time inventory tracking, and simultaneous task management. The forklift prioritizes sustainability and durability by using lightweight, recyclable, high-strength steel and aluminum alloys. It provides enhanced safety, control, and automation by doing away with free movement and emphasizing organized, optimized movement—particularly in high-call, critical operations.

6. FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY

The "INVENTOPIA 2025 – ForkMatic" survey aimed to quantify awareness and acceptability of warehouse automation, specifically ForkMatic. Completed via Google Forms, it used simple, multiple-choice questions in demographics, exposure to automation, and views on warehouse robots. Its readability guaranteed high response rates, simplicity of analysis, with results automatically compiled and exportable for research. Responses were guaranteed to be anonymous, providing honest feedback, and the survey was shared with a broad, diverse audience online.

Out of 36 respondents, 58.3% were female and 41.7% male, showing gender-diverse feedback. Most were familiar with automation: 52.8% somewhat, 38.9% very, and 2.8% experts, while only 5.6% were not familiar. Half believed automation often improves daily life, and 16.7% said it almost always does, reflecting a generally positive view. A large majority (91.7%) agreed that warehouses benefit from robotics, and 88.9% supported improved sorting and importing/exporting processes. Similarly, 88.9% saw

innovation in forklifts as important, and the same percentage believed ForkMatic could transform warehouse operations, indicating strong support for its potential.

7. POTENTIAL FOR COMMERCIALISATION

There is a growing global demand for new automation systems and logistics configurations, which greatly expands the commercialization possibilities for The ForkMatic system. ForkMatic needs to market itself as a fast and flexible solution for modern supply chains, and is battling ineffective business processes and people as they emerge. ForkMatic derives productivity benefits from "one" of real-time sorting, autonomous navigating, and AI controlled driving which can maximize operational efficiency for retailers, supplier manufacturers (medical), and logistics.

ForkMatic can also be implemented in large distribution centers but allows small-mid sized businesses to execute speed advantages due to its modular rail structure. ForkMatic provides long-term financial savings because of reduced wages based on the comparison of time to wage gulfs, risk cost eliminations of workplace accidents, and increases in productivity. ForkMatic is therefore a unique technological innovation and a commercially viable product that has a good chance of gaining popularity both domestically and abroad.

8. BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

ForkMatic innovation system offers significant benefits to the community such as prioritising the workplace safety in material handling and logistics environments. As most warehousing operates theirs manually, ForkMatic design reduces the need for manual control which eliminates the chances of human error that could happen due to misjudgment and lack of attention when handling the products and services. This system lessens the physical closeness of the workers with the heavy machinery to avoid the accidents from happening.

Futhermore, ForkMatic innovation systems achieves a remarkable improvement in increasing the level of operational efficiency. The system enhances the adjustments of loading and unloading process automatically, by improving the speed of the process. This makes it more convenient to operate even during peak periods with minimal delivery time frames. Besides, the system provides valuable feedback that can further be used to analyze and optimize the productflow, warehouse layout, and task completion, and eventually resulting in more efficient and smoother operations.

9. CONCLUSION

ForkMatic Automated Railed Forklift solves modern warehousing problems through the application of AI and rail-guided navigation to improve efficiency, safety, and the lesser use of human labor. Autonomously operating, arranging goods, and monitoring inventory operations in real time would also seriously improve productivity during season-peak periods. According to a public opinion poll, ForkMatic and warehouse automation are widely accepted. ForkMatic is modular, sustainable, and system-compatible, and is already a proven scalable system and well-embedded in existing

operations, which makes it a solid investment in logistical, safety, and cost savings long term.

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