DHL to deploy 1,000+ additional robots across UK Operations to support business growth in e-commerce and life sciences health care sector

09-07-2025

Until 2030, DHLâ€™s contract logistics business plans to significantly increase its scale in UK & Ireland as well as globally, with automation, robotics and digitalisation being a key enabler of this growth.

Milton Keynes - DHL Supply Chain today announces the investment of £550m (€637m) to expand its infrastructure and accelerate the rollout of automation across its customer operations in UK and Ireland, to support growing demand in the e-commerce and life sciences health care sectors.

The new investment builds on the €1bn already spent on automation by DHL Supply Chain over the last three years, with more than 3,200 digitalisation projects deployed across the UK & Ireland and EMEA. Until 2030, DHL's contract logistics business plans to significantly increase its scale in UK&I as well as globally, with automation, robotics and digitalisation being a key enabler of this growth.

Saul Resnick, CEO DHL Supply Chain UK & Ireland says, "Our investment reflects the growing opportunities across the UK market. Customers are increasingly recognising the benefits of digitalisation and, to date this year, we've already surpassed the number of deployments achieved last year. What's more, the integration of robotics and automation in customer operations is becoming more sophisticated, so customers are seeing greater benefits and faster ROI.

"This momentum is only possible with the right infrastructure and expertise in place, tailored to support high-growth industries like e-commerce and healthcare. That's why we're investing for long-term impact, ensuring we are the go-to supply chain provider. The UK's new Trade Strategy reinforces this direction by supporting fast-growing sectors and enhancing access to global markets - priorities that closely align with our investment focus and customer needs."

Through strategic partnerships with technology companies, DHL is intensifying its commitment to go beyond classical vendor relationships to emphasise co-developing, testing, and scaling robotics solutions with

leading innovators. This strategy has already resulted in more than 2,000 robots working collaboratively alongside our associates in the UK, Ireland and EMEA region. More than 750 Assisted Picking Robots from our strategic partners Locus Robotics and 6 River Systems are live across 18 sites in the region and DHL recently deployed the first Boston Dynamics Stretch Robot for container unloading in the UK. The Stretch robots have the ability to unload up to 700 boxes per hour, significantly reducing physical strain on warehouse colleagues and enhancing productivity in fast turnaround environments such as e-commerce.

Further supporting DHL Group's Strategy 2030, DHL will open a new DHL Health Logistics facility in Derby. The facility has been designed to support growth in the life sciences and healthcare sector, which is projected to experience double digit growth in the UK over the next five years, driving demand for specialist logistics capabilities. Each site will feature cold chain and cleanroom facilities and will play a pivotal role in the wider DHL Health Logistics network, globally.

The investment plan reinforces the role of the UK as one of DHL Supply Chain's largest and most strategically significant regions. With long-standing trade and supply chain expertise, the UK has proven to be a resilient and adaptable logistics hub and plays a key role in global commerce as trade patterns continue to shift.

The announcement comes as the UK Government sets out its first Trade Strategy since leaving the EU - a timely backdrop that reflects a shared emphasis on strengthening global trade networks and supporting high-growth sectors, while aiming to unlock £5billion in new opportunities for British businesses. As the UK looks to strengthen its position as a global trade leader, DHL's continued investment in automation and infrastructure in the UK and Ireland aligns with the strategy's focus on high-growth sectors and resilient, future-ready supply chains.

Tim Tetzlaff, Global Head of Digital Transformation, DHL Supply Chain, says, "At DHL, we're driving the next wave of automation, not as a one-size-fits-all approach but as a set of intelligent, adaptive technologies tailored to the specific needs of individual sectors. For e-commerce, for example, where the market is evolving and demand is growing, we're expanding our fulfilment capabilities to support that shift with automated solutions that significantly simplify high-volume operations. Meanwhile, in the growing life sciences sector, we're leveraging automation to respond faster to demand and manage complexity at scale with end-to-end visibility, amid a larger focus on patient-centric approaches and differentiated routes to market."

CLASSIFICATION: CORPORATE | WWW.IPC.BE © 2026

Source: DHL group

CLASSIFICATION: CORPORATE | WWW.IPC.BE © 2026