International Post Corporation

Royal Mail rolls out latest high-speed sorting machine in Manchester

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Royal Mail has installed its latest high-speed parcel sorting machine in Manchester, capable of processing 157,000 parcels per day to help meet the shift in consumer demand for parcels and next-day delivery. With parcel deliveries now representing almost £6 in £10 of Royal Mailâ€™s revenue, the new fully automated sorting machine at Manchester Mail Centre will support the companyâ€™s ongoing transformation into even more of a parcels-led business.

An intelligent system of conveyor belts and scanning technology enables the machine to sort a variety of parcel shapes and sizes weighing up to 3kg for onward despatch to local delivery offices across Manchester and beyond.

Royal Mail currently sorts more than 22million parcels on average each week by automated means, with a total of 36 parcel sorting machines operating across the UK network.

With domestic parcel volumes up more than 30% compared to pre-pandemic levels, these machines strengthen Royal Mail's drive to increase automation and operational efficiency across its business.

Grant McPherson, Chief Operating Officer, Royal Mail, said: "Customers want more parcels, delivered the next day – including Sundays. We are investing in the latest technology to ensure we can meet this demand as we modernise our business. Our new parcel sorting machine in Manchester will help drive growth as we transform into an even more parcels-focused business."

Royal Mail is aiming to reach 70% parcel automation by 2022-23 and the industry standard of 90% parcel automation by 2023-24.

In June, Royal Mail opened its huge new North West Super Hub in Warrington which can process more than 800,000 parcels a day. Its Midlands Super Hub, based in Northampton, is on track to open in Summer 2023 and when operational, will be able to process more than one million items per day.

Source: Royal Mail