National Westminster Bank

The NatWest Tray Story

How intelligent automation with NotaTracc® optimizes cash handling in a commercial cash center
Logistics standardization pays off

Optimizing Processes for the Future

NotaTracc is the logistics revolution in cash centers around the globe. For National Westminster Bank (NatWest), running nine high-speed systems six days a week, this intelligent automation easily pays off.

Upon entering a NatWest cash center, one is immediately impressed by the streamlined processes, low number of staff and the huge stacks of NotaTracc trays. In each of the three NatWest cash centers in the United Kingdom, three BPS M5 processing systems with 20 stackers work at a speed of 33 banknotes per second.

In the United Kingdom, banknote circulation is delegated by the Bank of England to the commercial cash industry. NatWest is a major player in the United Kingdom’s ‘Note Circulation Scheme,’ which guarantees cash availability and quality in the country.

In 2017, NatWest replaced the existing BPS 1000 banknote processing system with its successor, BPS M5, and the NotaTracc loading module. In doing so, NatWest not only increased the speed of processing systems by 10%, but the entire concept of cash processing was reviewed.

Dave Lea, Operational Development Manager at NatWest, remarked, “We realized the enhanced value of the BPS M5 if we added the NotaTracc loading module to it. The loading module takes a good part of the job of the operator, who would normally stand at the machine permanently to feed banknotes.”

NatWest’s goal was to utilize the BPS M5 at maximum level, take pressure off operators and reduce discrepancies – in short, significantly increase efficiency.

Buffering with several units of full NotaTracc trays provides 15 minutes of uninterrupted high-speed processing of banknotes. Operators are now able to use this time more effectively, for example to prepare rejected banknotes for a re-run. This results in an impressive 50% reduction in load for the manual reconciliation process.
EFFICIENCY INCREASE THROUGH AUTOMATION

The switch to NotaTracc facilitated high-speed processing, greater automation and increased ergonomics, resulting in an effective average throughput of up to 100,000 banknotes per hour for each BPS M5 – a remarkable value-add in a cash center that deals with mixed banknote qualities.

“The increased speed of the BPS M5 could heighten operators’ stress and pressure in keeping the machine permanently loaded to achieve maximum throughput,” adds Lea, “so one important function for NotaTracc was to offload our teams, and let the NotaTracc loading module do this job, fully automated. Automation runs constantly and consistently. As a side effect, our banknote singling times per shift for each BPS system increased, guaranteeing maximum loading of the BPS M5 at all times.”

“While we processed the worth of about 1 million pounds per hour on our 12-pocket BPS 1000, we now achieve 1.5 million pounds per hour on the 20-pocket BPS M5 when combined with NotaTracc.”

DAVE LEA, Operational Development Manager, NatWest

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

- Automation by NotaTracc drastically improves the efficiency of banknote processing operations.
- NotaTracc loading module gives operators time to take care of rejects.
- Operators appreciate and enjoy the ergonomic environment.
- Streamlined processes and reduced hands on cash results in fewer discrepancies.
- Using NotaTracc with partners in the cash process opens up a world of possibilities.
- NotaTracc protects the environment by eliminating single-use plastic bags.
Clearly marked areas make tray handling easy and error-proof.

Large deposits are processed, counted and sorted in a single step.

NotaTracc not only is an intralogistics element, but also plays an important role in the entire cash cycle. NatWest and LOOMIS UK are advancing the cash cycle by no longer transporting cash in single-use plastic safebags, but rather in NotaTracc trays that can be continually recirculated. The use of NotaTracc trays both internally and externally not only reduces the effort of unpacking cash, also avoids single-use packaging material.

This exemplifies NatWest’s and their partners’ commitment to sustainability as it significantly reduces plastic waste and helps to protect the environment. “Two other carriers have committed to start using the trays in the UK and we are expecting a full rollout by the end of 2020,” says Dave Lea.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRE-NOTATRACC ERA</th>
<th>NOTATRACC ERA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BPS 1000, 12 stacker</td>
<td>BPS M5, 20 stacker</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 bn/sec</td>
<td>33 bn/sec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manual loading</td>
<td>Automated loading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Process £1 million/h</td>
<td>Process £1.5 million/h</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single-use safebags for cash deposits</td>
<td>Less hands on cash, less waste</td>
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“Our company is committed to reducing our carbon footprint and innovating collaboratively with our partners to achieve this. By using NotaTracc trays for the transport of cash, we are circulating a reusable container rather than single-use plastic.”

DAVE LEA,
Operational Development Manager, NatWest
Systems used by NatWest

Achieving success by optimizing operations – NatWest made their banknote processing more efficient through a specific combination of systems that seamlessly complement each other.

**NOTATRACC L LOADING MODULE**
Automatically loads the BPS M system and provides a buffer capacity of up to 24,000 banknotes.

**BPS M5**
The system of choice for high-volume commercial cash centers that perfectly links banknote processing and intelligent automation.

**NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK**
NatWest serves around 18.89 million customers in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and North America, but they focus their solutions on the United Kingdom. They provide a wide range of products and services to personal, commercial and large corporate institutional customers through a number of well-known banking brands.

**NOTATRACC TRAY**
A standardized box that maximizes security and efficiency by linking cash automation and logistics, featuring header cards and standard sizes.