

## Extra warehouse storage space

Through innovative design, SPAR Eastern Cape has gained an extra 40% storage space at its 9000m<sup>2</sup> 'slow-moving' off-site warehouse in Port Elizabeth.

their unique capability to articulate and operate in very narrow spaces, were a part of the solution," he says.

SPAR Risk & Maintenance Manager at the facility, Julian Koutsouvelis, says that apart from their ability to work in the facility's narrow 1950mm aisles, the versatility of the Bendis with respect to their ability to work both in- and outside, was important in the decision to buy them.

Mike says, "The Bendi's ability to pick indoors and load outdoors with equal dexterity, precludes the requirement for two machines. It can also load a truck straight from the rack avoiding the double handling of pallets. All this significantly enhances efficiency."

According to Darryl Shafto, GLTC Managing Director, there is an increasing demand for narrower aisles as the cost of space spirals and the Bendi is making a real difference to the bottom line.

"Even in widths of just 1.8m, the Bendi articulated forklift helps the operator work faster, safer and more accurately. We have also had reports from our Bendi users here and overseas that racking damage is significantly less," says Darryl.

He continues, "The typical reach truck requires aisles of 2.5 to 3m for storage and racking, but reach trucks typically have small, harder wheels and low ground clearance, making outdoor use impractical. But the Bendi, because of its unique counterbalanced design and its ability to articulate, is able to handle a similar load to a common forklift truck and work in aisles that are much narrower and space saving."

Another advantage of the Bendi is the speed it can transfer from aisle to aisle. Darryl explains, "Obviously very narrow aisles [VNA] machines make efficient use of narrow aisle space, but they need large areas and longer times to transfer between aisles. However the Bendi behaves like a VNA but moves like a conventional forklift."



*Mike Burley, Goscor Lift Truck Company, PE Branch Manager with Julian Koutsouvelis, Risk and Maintenance Manager, SPAR Eastern Cape.*

**T**wo Bendi 318 articulated forklifts from Goscor Lift Truck Company [GLTC] Eastern Cape branch are being used to operate in the narrower aisles. These are the first Bendi forklifts to be used in the SPAR Group nationally.

GLTC Eastern Cape Branch Manager Mike Burley says the main challenge in this facility was the utilisation of space as it is a long and narrow building. "The task was to help increase the storage capacity and the Bendis, with