



In the Merlog state-of-the-art facility with some of the Crown units are (from L to R): Warren Newell (Regional Sales Manager KZN), Malcolm Fuller (Operations Manager Merlog Foods), Dale Rosewall (Area Sales Manager inland-KZN)

They Said it Couldn't be Done

Merlog Foods, one of the largest wholesalers and distributors of frozen foods in South Africa, has developed the most advanced cold storage facility in the country and uses Goscor's Crown warehousing equipment as part of the process.

Merlog operations manager, Malcolm Fuller, says that Crown was chosen because of the superior quality of the machines combined with outstanding service from the Goscor Lift Truck Company (GLTC) team. "Over the years we have learnt that we can

trust Crown equipment and that, in the event of something going wrong, Goscor's service team will attend to the problem quickly and efficiently," says Malcolm.

Merlog run their extensive operation out of two facilities, one in Cato Ridge just outside Durban and the other in Heriotdale in Johannesburg. The Cato Ridge facility is Merlog Foods' brand new head office and distribution centre. This state-of-the-art freezer facility is an 11 300-pallet fully-automated bulk cold store with an ASRS (automatic storage and retrieval system) and WMS (warehouse management system). "This is the only one of its kind in South Africa," says Malcolm. "In essence it's a "dark store" meaning there is no staff or equipment apart from the one crane operating at -25°C in the bulk store."

He adds that Merlog is very proud of this achievement. "Many of our colleagues in this industry said it would never work. But it has, in a big way. It has improved stock accuracy, eliminated stock and racking damages, reduced working hours and, of course, significantly improved efficiencies."

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