



## CASE STUDY

Quality batteries, chargers, and service are key to Hoppecke's successful partnership with one of the UK's leading foodservice businesses, Bidfood. As the company's chosen energy provider, we've been helping to reduce costs and increase operational flexibility across its UK network since 2005. Our systems power the material handling fleet at Bidfood's newest distribution centre in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.

Operating 28 hubs nationwide, Bidfood specialises in fresh, frozen and chilled food. Formerly known as 3663 First for Food Group and Bidvest Foodservice, the company supplies restaurants, pubs, cafés and clubs as well as schools, hospitals and prisons.

### Strengthening the Bidfood network

Investment in the Bedfordshire depot reinforces Bidfood's strategic plan to strengthen its network. The aim is to enhance service provision across south east England and, ultimately, deliver a truly local service. Featuring state-of-the-art systems, technology and fittings, the 160,000 sq. ft. facility is enabling Bidfood to reduce its carbon footprint as it works towards making all depots greener.

## Motive Power: Powering MHE at Bidfood's Biggleswade depot



### The challenge

Operating a UK-wide fleet of trucks brings major challenges, especially when equipment works in both cold store and ambient environments. Flexible use of MHE is essential since order picking takes place during the night, although trucks might need to operate during the day. Reliability is vital, as depots charge the batteries on their forklifts, reach trucks and low-level order pickers more than once in a 24-hour period. Like all depots, Bidfood Biggleswade operates MHE with a battery system that is easy to access and maintain.

### Hoppecke's solution

Our trak air batteries and intelligent high frequency charger systems proved the ideal fit for Bidfood's innovative electric MHE sourced from Linde Materials Handling. Key gains include improved operational flexibility and lower costs. Gone are the early battery failure and unbudgeted repairs which were commonplace with a previous supplier.

Service is a key part of our offer. Today, a nationwide contract serves all Bidfood distribution centres with Hoppecke engineers visiting sites every two months to carry out required battery filling and maintenance.



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## Flexibility

Thanks to our solution, MHE delivers excellent performance over 24 hours. Since there is no need to deploy spare batteries, no time is lost to battery changing. Bidfood Biggleswade can opportunity charge batteries during its normal weekly operation, providing the requisite flexibility for its picking requirements. A full charge at a weekend ensures no damage and the depot experiences neither reduced battery life nor negative warranty effects.

## Benefits

Typically, average battery life is 10 years in Bidfood's ambient operations and seven years in its cold store/freezer business. Whilst extended battery life is a big bonus, the company has reduced its expenditure on energy, since trak air batteries typically deliver key savings on electricity costs. The well-being of operatives is always a prime consideration and operating with a single battery per truck system improves workplace safety. Thanks to our comprehensive energy solution, Bidfood maximises vital warehouse space and enjoys a reduced carbon footprint.



01782 667306 [www.hoppecke.co.uk](http://www.hoppecke.co.uk) [sales@hoppecke.co.uk](mailto:sales@hoppecke.co.uk)



/hoppeckeuk



[linkedin.com/company/hoppecke-batteries](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hoppecke-batteries)

Unit 2, Lowfield Drive, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 0UU



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