Top 3 Automation Technologies in Industrial Distribution
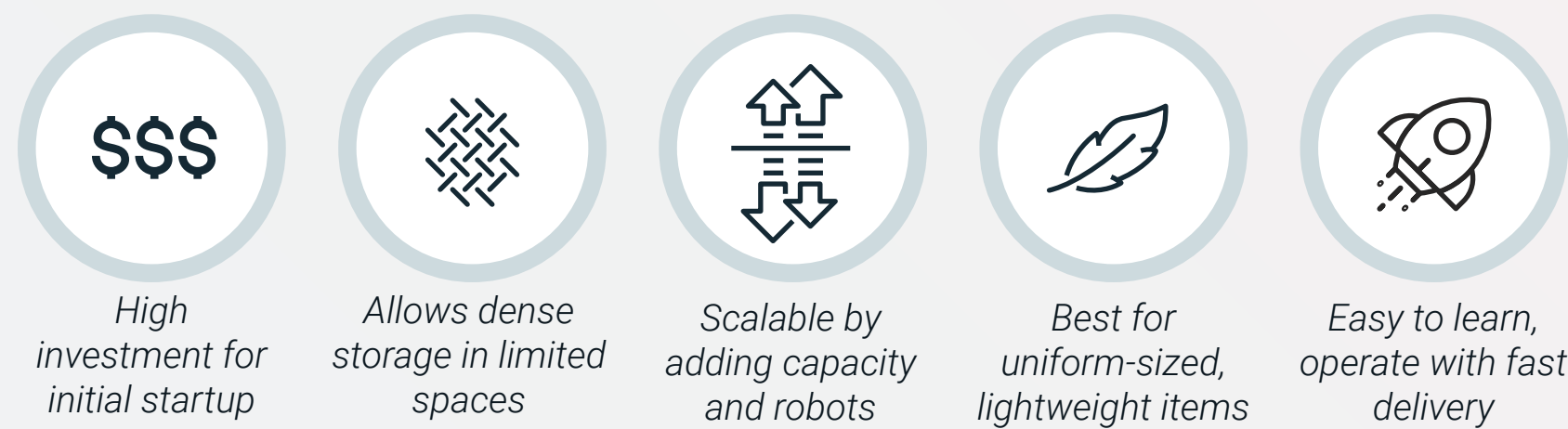
There are several types of warehouse automation systems now in existence, but each vary greatly in scope, complexity and cost.

Here are the **top three automation technologies to consider in industrial distribution**.

Goods-to-Person System:
Robotic Cube

- Cube-based automated storage.
- Automatically transport goods directly to operator for picking.
- Eliminate travel time.
- Rapid pick rates for smaller and lighter items.

Considerations

$$$				
High investment for initial startup	Allows dense storage in limited spaces	Scalable by adding capacity and robots	Best for uniform-sized, lightweight items	Easy to learn, operate with fast delivery

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Goods-to-Person System:
Vertical Lift Module (VLM)

- Vertical storage with trays in the front and back of a column.
- Inserter and extractor system that runs down the center.
- Delivers the stored trays to work counter.
- Fast to fulfill clients on site or counter picking – popular in the electrical industry.

Considerations

$$				
Less expensive than cube-based systems	Manage heavier and wider range of items with storage locations based on size and weight	Requires higher ceilings	Creates a single point of failure into the picking process	Easy to learn, operate with fast delivery

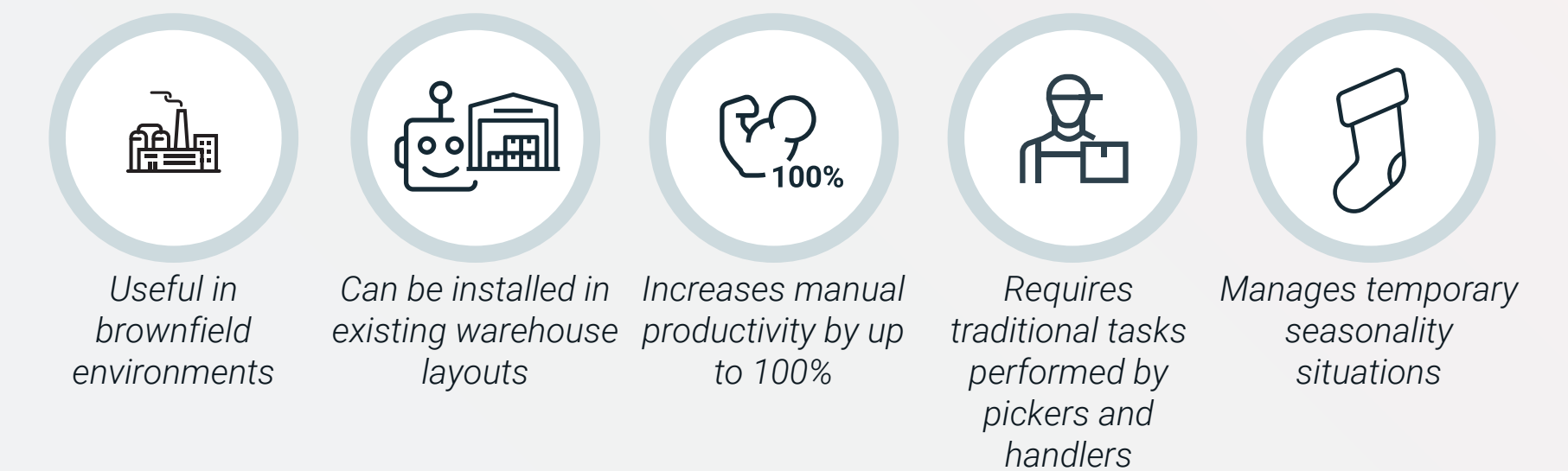WATCH VIDEO
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Person-to-Goods System:
Cobots

- Automated guided vehicle (AGV) guided by wires or QR codes on the floor.
- Autonomous mobile robot (AMR) operates via internal warehouse mapping.
- Item picking, movement of pallets or cases, security and cleaning.
- Popular with 3PLs and multi-use warehousing.

Considerations

		100%		
Useful in brownfield environments	Can be installed in existing warehouse layouts	Increases manual productivity by up to 100%	Requires traditional tasks performed by pickers and handlers	Manages temporary seasonality situations

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Speak to a warehouse automation expert today ❯❯❯❯

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