11. The SMIF pod handler according to claim 10, wherein each of the sorting lots and shuttle comprises a wheel conveyer oriented horizontally against the length of the buffering and sorting rail, wherein the SMIF pod loaded thereon can be conveyed sideway between the two rolls of sorting lots and the shuttle.

12. The SMIF pod handler according to claim 11, wherein the wheel conveyer comprises individually motorized in-line wheels.

13. The SMIF pod handler according to claim 1, wherein the input pod loader and output pod loader are located in two physical locations and the upstream unit and the downstream unit are two separated units.