

Custom RFID Solution Case Study

Material Handlers deliver on time, at the right time!

Major Automotive Manufacturer in U.S.

When a major automotive manufacturer required real-time Work in Process (WIP) tracking they turned to TransitionWorks for the solution. Tracking the progress of products being manufactured and tracking products going through the quality testing process was a prerequisite. Real-time WIP information, through the use of RFID technology, is allowing the material handlers to deliver the right products to the line accurately and when needed.

- Headquarters: United States
- Five automotive manufacturing facilities in North America



Business Issues

Automation for material flow

This company required real-time data during the flow of material from one work center to the next to alert material handlers of product that was ready to be moved and of materials required at work centers. The process alleviates radio communication to the materials handlers and prevents stoppage of the flow, through the manufacturing process, due to lack of materials.

The company needed a system that would:

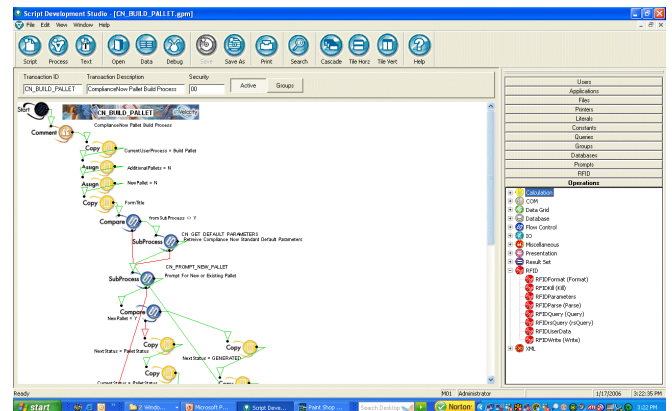
- Provide continuous feedback based on pallet movement through the manufacturing process.
- Utilize RFID to monitor pallet movements along the manufacturing line.
- Increase the efficiency of the material handlers in moving material only when needed.
- Track product going to quality control.

TransitionWorks Solution

Developed in a few days

Using TransitionWorks Design Time (TWS-DT), a custom solution was developed **in days** to work with a multi vendor environment using RFID UHF equipment to monitor the movement of pallets throughout the manufacturing process. The pallets were tagged with RFID labels and the data was integrated into their existing inventory systems. TransitionWorks Run Time (TWS-RT) software resides on a server managing the

readers and filters the RFID data to the right people, updating different databases.



The recommended solution included:

- TWS-DT for custom transaction development
- TWS-RT
- UHF Gen 2 tags, EMS RFID readers and antennae

Business Benefits

"We needed a solution that we could implement quickly to manage our material handling inefficiencies. TransitionWorks was able to deliver a solution within a matter of days," confirmed the Materials manager.

The business benefits included:

- Improved personnel efficiencies
- Reduced verbal communication with real-time visual requirements at the forklift
- Removed paperwork at the production line
- High Availability and Reliability
- Software Scalability
- Integration into current SQL ERP system

This company plans to continue implementing real-time inventory tracking using TransitionWorks throughout the manufacturing facility.



Lessons Learned

According to the Project manager, ***“When implementing RFID solutions, ensure you take the time for tag testing and understanding the physics of the products and the layout of the environment.”***

Remember, one type of RFID tag will not meet all the needs in any environment. Be prepared to use a variety

of tags and RFID technology based on the products and how RFID will be used. TransitionWorks software enables customers to use a variety of RFID hardware and tags for data collection using our single software platform. Whether its barcode, RFID, Voice or PLC solutions you require for your data collection needs, TransitionWorks has the enabling technology solution for your environment.

About TransitionWorks Software

TransitionWorks Software is dedicated to helping our customers improve efficiencies and simplify business processes. Since product inception in 1997, our TransitionWorks Software organization has accomplished this goal by iteratively developing, delivering and supporting a set of solutions that help manufacturing/distribution companies simplify and automate key supply chain processes using automated data collection technology such as barcode, RFID, PLC and sensor communication. With proven, successful implementations world-wide, TransitionWorks' premier solutions for Inventory and Asset management is the system of choice for many leading companies in the world.

TransitionWorks Software Solutions:

Inventory Visibility
Sales Visibility
Asset Visibility

Custom Process Solution

Integration Capabilities – BPCS, SAP, Oracle, JDE, Legacy, etc.

For more information on TransitionWorks Software please visit us at www.transitionworkssoftware.com, email info@transitionworkssoftware.com or give us a call at (336) 885-1373.