Goodpack is the world’s largest provider of Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs), which are patented multi-modal, returnable metal boxes. Goodpack rents its 2.6 million IBCs to customers worldwide. The containers are mainly used for raw rubber transportation, but also for food supplies and chemicals. In order to enable full visibility of their assets in real time, Vilant Asset Tracking system was implemented.

Benefits:
- Increased administrative efficiency (time and resources)
- Increase the utilization of their asset pool
- Enable the invoicing of real rental period
- Reduced risk of loss and theft
- Prevents the rental of damaged container
- The main benefits for the customers are increased quality and punctuality of deliveries

Starting Point/Objectives/Motivation:
It was not known how many containers the company had, and the exact location and rental duration were not known. There was also loss of containers (some percent annually). IBCs are relative valuable thus asset management was reasonable in order to prevent loss, increase containers’ utilization and to demand real rental charge.

Before the implementation there was no systematic management of asset. Thus there was no exact information of the quantity, location or rental duration of the containers. The rental charge was estimated for the benefit of the customer.

Goodpack has automated its internal and customer processes to increase administration efficiency.

The system enabled efficient asset management including:
- Information about the quantity of IBCs
- Information about the location of IBCs
- Efficient use of IBCs
- Automated rent-calculation system based on real rental duration
- Possibility to use KPIs to assess and compare locations and warehouses
- Loss reduction
- Prevention of the use of damaged containers, tracking the source of damage, and the time of reparation
The solution consists of:
• Tailored RFID tags for the containers,
• Fixed RFID gates for tracking the movement of containers from and to the central locations
• RFID handhelds for tracking in warehouses to compose the shipments and manage the warehouse inventory
• RFID software and backend integration to the SAP administrative system.

Durable and hard EPC Gen 2 passive ultrahigh-frequency (UHF) RFID tag (Confidex Ironside Slim™ tag), GS1 GRAI (Global Returnable Asset Identifier) encoded tag. The tag has up to eight meters read-range and very broad radiation pattern. Items used outdoor have IP68 level encapsulation made of durable engineering plastics.
Laser printed barcodes are used as a back-up solution.
Fixed readers consist of Vilant’s Smart Gates with incorporated Impinj Revolution readers. Handheld interrogators are Psion Workabout Pro and CAEN RFID A828.

Vilant’s Web-based software is integrated to SAP system.

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http://www.rfidjournal.com/articles/view?9201

Jenni Eckhardt, Antti Permala VTT Transport (24.2.2015)
Antti.permala@vtt.fi

More information:

Transport mode or supply chain elements:
• List the relevant transport modes or supply chain elements
  • Road/Truck
  • Deep Dea Vessels

Main actors involved
• Asset (Container) provider

More Best Practice cases and information about BESTFACT can be found at:
http://www.bestfact.net