

LEADING INDICATORS

INDUSTRY PULSE

RFID a Blessing for Vatican Librarians

Secular has met sacred at the Vatican Library in Rome, where librarians are tagging hundreds of thousands of books and documents with RFID inlays. The library hopes to find misplaced books more quickly, maximize floor space by tracking how frequently items are requested, and cut the inventory process from a full month to a half day.

The tags, provided by Texas Instruments and systems integrator Seret, are already on some 50,000 tomes. Librarians will be able to check shelf contents against the library's database by using handheld RFID readers.

Although the religious setting is somewhat novel, the application is not—libraries were among the first RFID applications, and the Seret system complies with existing worldwide library tracking standards to permit Web-based catalog searches.

www.seretsrl.it/hom.htm

New Mobile Computers for Carriers

FedEx, UPS, and the U.S. Postal Service are rolling out new mobile computers. Both FedEx and UPS will combine wide-area, local-area, and personal-area wireless technologies in one device.

FedEx has embraced imaging technology as well in its new mobile computers. The GPRS-Dispatch system combines software developed by FedEx's GSP Technologies group with customized Intermec Technologies 760 computers. The device, which will be rolled out first in China, combines wireless LAN, GPRS, and Bluetooth communications technologies.

The UPS DIAD IV, currently in field trials in the

U.S., also combines Bluetooth with wireless LAN and GPRS/CDMA technology. In addition, the device includes GPS capabilities and a color screen. Symbol Technologies developed the DIAD IV with UPS and Motorola.

UPS is also installing finger-worn "ring" bar code scanners equipped with Bluetooth connectivity from Symbol at its sorting centers and hubs in Europe, thereby eliminating the connecting cables from the devices.

Motorola will provide new handheld computers to the Postal Service. The Intelligent Mail scanning devices will read 2D bar codes as well as the four-state bar code.

www.symbol.com, www.intermec.com,
www.motorola.com



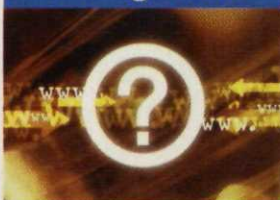
RFID Implementation Association Formed

A not-for-profit trade association launches this month at the Frontline Expo in Chicago. The mission of the International RFID Business Association is to use direct input and guidance from members to help implement RFID applications using a multi-industry global approach. A goal of the group is to collaborate with existing standards and trade organizations.

Membership comprises solution providers and end users. The association plans to provide education and training. It will have vertical industry committees and will disseminate lessons learned.

info@rfidbusiness.org

Percentage WISE



What effect have new government cargo security regulations (Bioterrorism Act, advance manifest rules, etc.) had on your supply chain?

Survey results are collected on our homepage, where new questions are posted regularly. Cast your vote in the current survey at

www.FrontlineToday.com

49% No effect

23% Authorities are still interrogating our last shipment of imported sea bass

15% Lead times are longer, but we think the increased documentation could have long-term efficiency benefits

13% We've had to add one or more days' inventory back into the supply chain

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