

TAKING STOCK OF SUPPLIES

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS' BARCODE SCANNERS HARVEST TIME SAVINGS FOR DLG



DLG GROUP

Owned by 28,000 Danish farmers, DLG is one of Europe's largest agricultural companies with 5,000 employees in 25 countries. The company turned over €5.5 billion in 2011 and has two distinct sections. Its wholesale branches supply farmers with feed, seed grain, fertilizer, agricultural lime and fuel. And its retail division operates 65 stores across Denmark and Sweden. DLG has an exceptionally high number of product lines, with stores selling a wide variety of agricultural products, gardening equipment and pet supplies. With such a large inventory, keeping track of supplies and reordering products are time-consuming and labour-intensive tasks.

DLG's old scanning system was seriously outdated: the devices were clunky and prone to breakages and their memory capacity was far too small to accommodate the company's large inventory of products.

DLG decided to invest in a new scanning system. And at the recommendation of mobile computing specialist NPT it opted to deploy Motorola Solutions' Bluetooth and Wi-Fi enabled MT2000 hybrid scanner/mobile terminals. A key reason behind this decision is that the MT2000s boast a generous memory capacity and the ability to function as both point of sale terminals and batch scanning devices. Also, NPT customised its MOTO-SCAN software to connect the scanners to DLG's back office SAP system. Data is transferred from the devices to SAP, giving DLG a real-time view of its inventory. Product updates can also be sent from the back office to the scanners, allowing DLG to communicate with all 65 of its stores simultaneously.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Organisation DLG Group

Location

Denmark

Industry Agricultural supplies

Partner

NPT

Motorola Solutions' products

 150 MT2000 hybrid scanner/ mobile terminals

Applications

 Scanning of barcodes for processing purchases at the cash register, taking stock of inventory and reordering products "We've reached a whole new league of data capture with the MT2000s. It's great to have a device that can be used both at the till and for batch scanning — it's made life much easier for staff. Stock tracking is so much faster — we can scan large volumes of products really quickly. And with automated stock ordering staff can use the devices to request items from the shop floor so there's no need to contact head office. Plus, the scanners' software can be upgraded remotely, so we've reduced our spending on fleet maintenance substantially. Overall the technology is far less labour-intensive than our old system so staff can spend more time helping customers and less time compiling inventories."

Thomas Dige Pedersen, IT Project manager, DLG

dlg

CHALLENGE

DLG operates 65 stores under the brand name 'Land & Fritid' in Denmark. DLG's stores house a massive inventory of products from feeds and grains to gardening equipment and pet supplies. Keeping track of so many product lines is a constant challenge. DLG's old stock tracking system required lots of manual input, and the devices were outdated and expensive to maintain. Plus, their memory size was far too small to cope with the company's inventory. Aware that scanning technology had progressed considerably since it acquired its last system, DLG decided it was time for an upgrade. The company wanted scanners that were robust and easy to use and could be connected to its back office SAP system.

SOLUTION

After looking at a number of solutions, DLG opted to work with mobile computing specialist NPT. NPT recommended installing Motorola Solutions' MT2000 hybrid scanner/mobile terminals running a customised version of its MOTO-SCAN software. NPT added automatic distribution to the MOTO-SCAN app so software updates are automatically sent to scanners in all of DLG's stores. And when the MT2000s are docked in their cradles inventory data is transferred from the shop floor to DLG's back office SAP system in real time. NPT's solution also allows DLG to send information, such as product updates, from the back office to the devices.

And, uniquely, the MT2000s' wireless Bluetooth capability allows them to be used as mobile point of sale devices to process purchases at the till as well as for mobile batch scanning. In all, 150 scanners/mobile terminals are in use across DLG's stores.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

Time savings have been considerable as managing stock tracking and purchase processing are considerably less labour-intensive.

Batch scanning can now be carried out quickly and easily as product information no longer needs to be input manually. Staff simply scan an item, which is then identified on screen, and enter the quantity in stock using the MT2000's keypad. Also, supplies can be ordered using the MT2000s so staff no longer have to contact head office if stocks are running low.

Cost savings have also been substantial as the MT2000s' software can be upgraded remotely. DLG's IT department no longer need to have scanner units sent in for individual updates, so the cost of fleet maintenance has reduced dramatically.

In addition, the MT2000s' rugged construction and IP54 sealing mean that they're hardy enough to survive life on the shop floor, thereby reducing DLG's spending on hardware maintenance, repairs and replacement.

The system is also highly scalable as the MT2000s can read both 1D and 2D barcodes. So DLG can upgrade to barcode labels that hold more information without having to change its scanners.

Benefits

- Time savings: Faster batch scanning and automated stock ordering make stock tracking much more efficient
- Cost savings: As the mobile terminal works as both a point of sale terminal and mobile batch scanner DLG does not need to invest in two separate devices
- Efficient maintenance:
 The scanners can be updated remotely, reducing spent on hardware maintenance
- Scalable solution: The devices also support 2D barcode scanning, allowing DLG to upgrade its pricing labels without having to change its scanners

For more information on how Motorola Solutions' handheld mobile terminals can improve operating efficiencies in the retail environment, please visit us at www.motorolasolutions.com/mt2000 or access our global contact directory at Motorola.com/Business/XU-EN/Contact Us

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