

News:

## **Heavy industry adopts the RFID solution and ends the use of paper in supply chain management.**

**EBSE has outsourced control of arrival, exit and maintenance of parts and equipment with Technotag, in a project for oil and gas industry giant SBM do Brasil**

December 16, 2011 – To EBSE - Solution Engineering, innovation is the key word in adopting Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) technology in its project for oil and gas sector giant SBM do Brasil, in an undertaking geared toward Petrobras. “We still don’t have the numbers for how much we stand to save or gain in efficiency, as the project is still at an early phase”, said Paulo Roberto Pereira Vallado, executive manager of the EBSE Services Unit. “What I am able to guarantee is that we will free ourselves of a lot of paper in the control of our materials in the supply chain, which has also resulted in more agility”.



EBSE building site: heavy industry controls material and equipment with RFID

EBSE contracted Technotag, a company that develops, designs and markets mobile solutions with the use of RFID, following a two-month discussion regarding a supply chain automation proposal. “We wanted them to get involved in the reception of all the products, up to the time that each manufactured module leaves for the construction of the ship”, said Vallado. Technotag would have to store the work site material and equipment records, in addition to data on the maintenance of parts.

“We bet on Technotag. In spite of never having conducted this type of service, which was a challenge for them, we have seen great results”, said Vallado. “It’s still too early to say if it’s good or great. Thus far, I can say that the service has been very good. Furthermore, if I hadn’t contracted Technotag, I’d have to have someone to supervise the old process with Excel spreadsheets. We’d have to generate a document for each product or piece of equipment”, stated Vallado, adding that RFID helped EBSE free itself of excessive paper.

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With Technotag, EBSE has managed to overcome one of the leading difficulties in the management of large enterprises: collecting information about the arrival and exit of materials, details on tests and the installation of equipment – stages that, generally, demand many professionals, a large volume of printed documents and delays in access to data. However, the application of RFID technology with the Lince WMM (Warehouse Mobile Management) system has allowed for greater centralization of information and gains in procedural speed.

The system physically identifies material with RFID tags from the point of arrival, allowing for traceability and control of different stages of warehouse management (reception, quality inspection, inventory entry, storage, localization, ordering, picking, shipping, and control of stock and inventory locations). The result is the generation of real time material stock reports.

Using complete and updated reports, the company has better control of stock locations through identification with RFID transceivers and is able to promptly and accurately obtain the location of materials. Through this, a physical guarantee is also gained for items shipped for production, between ordering, picking and shipping. Another functionality offered by the system is the control of surplus resulting from the manufacture of spools, preventing waste.

“When we decided on Technotag we weren’t exactly sure how much we’d have to spend on this change in procedure. Our initial idea was to be different from the rest, to innovate, which is our corporate differential. I cannot say right now if there’s been a reduction of 20% or 30% in operations. What we really wanted was a system much better than that in which you store paper”, added Vallado. “When someone needs to take a look at information on materials and equipment, I won’t need to pull out paper files, as the entire process is digital”.

The ship for SBM, which is headquartered in Monaco and has offices in Holland and England, in addition to Brazil, is destined for Petrobras. Once ready, the ship will receive oil for pre-processing, prior to sending it ashore, removing all the saltwater and sulfur. “We are building four of a total 16 to 18 modules”, said Vallado. The other parts of the ship will be supplied by other manufacturers. EBSE is building the following ship components in the city of Itaguaí (RJ): two gas modules; one valve module, which controls all fluids; and a complementary module, which controls, for example, helicopter fuel for operations, etc.

According to Lucas Sperotto, general manager and CEO of Technotag, the system's implementation began in July of this year, with the introduction of portable data collectors, RFID tags and software; and should continue at least until the middle of next year, when work on the ship is expected to be concluded.

“At the time the products arrive, they are cataloged and stored, monitored and checked. The final inspection personnel use the system for auditing. All the information on what has been done and what is still outstanding for the future is in the software, including the inventory and localization of parts on the building site, etc. As it is a huge site, we have to locate each product with a system connected to Google Maps”, stated Sperotto.

Link: <http://brasil.rfidjournal.com/noticias/vision/9057>