

MIELOO & ALEXANDER

A man wearing glasses and a dark blue jacket is using a handheld UHF RFID scanner to track a stack of grey moving equipment. The equipment consists of numerous grey plastic bins stacked on a metal cart. In the background, there are more metal carts and a corrugated metal wall.

The Future of RFID enabled moving

Track & trace of moving equipment based on UHF RFID technology

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Roldo Rent

Roldo Rent is specialised in the rental of moving equipment like roll containers, moving boxes and dollies, moveable filing cabinets and a variety of other, auxiliary materials. Roldo Rent operates a pool of more than 150.000 assets which are supplied to a customer base of over 800 moving companies

in the Benelux and DACH areas, from 21 depots. The moving equipment is collected and returned by movers themselves, or delivered/collected by Roldo Rent.

With the introduction of the smart move box, a lightweight, foldable

box entirely made from sustainable materials, Roldo Rent will also start to supply sustainable moving equipment to consumers directly. The headoffice of Roldo Rent is located in Ermelo, the Netherlands.

The case for RFID

For movers, who typically supplement their own equipment with (very similar or exactly the same) rented materials, it is essential to keep track of all these assets which are out at their projects for prolonged periods of time. For one, because the rental fees that are charged to customers are a substantial part of their revenue, and as such the

rented materials form an important cost component.

But more importantly, the moving materials that are out and about on projects represent a significant value. And in practice these assets can easily be lost, resulting in disputes with the customer and eventually in higher cost for both customer and moving

company, as deposits will not be returned for lost assets. Losses can also occur when – on large projects contracted to multiple movers – the first mover collects and returns the items rented by the second mover, who continues to pay rent and ultimately the asset, whilst the goods have already been returned to Roldo Rent.

Objectives

Once Roldo Rent starts to rent smart move boxes directly to consumers, it becomes even more important to improve visibility at item or object level, rather than at material or quantity level. Therefore, Roldo Rent decided to implement a new tracking system based on UHF RFID tags, with the following key objectives:

- To enable customers to improve control on the assets rented from Roldo Rent, and to improve their internal logistics.
- To reduce losses and increase the efficiency of the administrative processes.
- To provide a higher added value as a logistics provider to the moving industry.
- To improve the efficiency and quality of the internal transactional processes and inventories in the depots.
- To enable Roldo Rent's expansion with rental and logistics services to clients in other industries.



The RFID enabled future of moving!

Roldo Rent’s vision is clear: all Roldo Rent assets are tagged with standards based UHF EPC/Gen2 RFID tags, all depots are equipped with RFID handhelds, and all in and outbound



transactions are registered at object level unique identification in the GS1 standards based RFID system. This system feeds the scan data into the ERP system (Navision Rental+) where inventories and balances are kept at item level and not at quantity level anymore. This system enables Roldo Rent to perform inventory counts with much higher frequency increasing stock accuracy and reducing losses. Also, in and outbound movements will be registered much more accurately and faster, and balances will be only settled with the actual renter, and not of the one who actually returns the asset.

To ensure the customer base also benefits from the full potential of

the RFID technology, Roldo Rent will make available a cloud based material management system as well as handheld RFID scanners to the clientele. All transactions by Roldo Rent depots will be automatically posted into this system, specifying the assets that are being deployed to the individual projects of the moving company. The movers will use the handhelds for intermediate movements and stock counting at projects. The system can be used for all moving equipment in use by the company, not only for the assets rented from Roldo Rent. Standard interfaces to the billing systems are provided, as well as detailed (historic) reporting on the material movements and balances.

Role of Mieloo & Alexander

Mieloo & Alexander has supported Roldo Rent from concept development to realisation: starting with technical tests to select RFID tags for over 30 different asset types (wood, metal, plastics), that provide similar read performance to avoid unwanted reads in operation. Together with the RFID tags, also handheld RFID scanners were tested and selected: NordicID Morphic CD. Mieloo & Alexander supplies the RFID tags (OmniID Max Rigid and Exo800, and plasticised Alien Squiggle Higgs3), as well as the “tagging team” which roams from depot to depot to apply tags to the assets, after which they are checked

and registered with a specially developed application.

Simultaneously, Mieloo & Alexander supported Roldo Rent with the solution design for the RFID system that consists of the cloud based RFID Server Application and integrated applications for the handheld RFID scanners, supporting a phased roll-out of the serialisation of the materials. Roldo Rent expects the tagging roll-out to be fully completed in Q2 2-016, by which the new RFID system will also be rolled out to all the depots. The roll-out of the RFID system for customers is planned for the second half of 2016.



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About Mieloo & Alexander Business Integrators

Mieloo & Alexander Business Integrators is a logistics consultancy firm and RFID integrator specialised in “technology enabled supply chain improvement”. As supply chain and logistics advisors we support our clients with their supply chain strategy, process redesign and with planning and managing the transformation project. And as RFID integrators, we help our customers to realise the benefits of AutoID technology and to improve and innovate their internal and collaborative business processes. We also offer standardised, modular supply chain solutions for Horticulture (ScanGreen), Asset Tracking (ScanTrack), biometric Time & Attendance registration (ScanTime), Linen Management (ScanBlue) and Apparel (TracEye). Mieloo & Alexander is based in Amsterdam and has a sales office in Düsseldorf, Germany.

For more information, visit www.mielooandalexander.com.