



Transportation Company

Rail operator manages equipment, plant maintenance, and parts inventory with an automated data collection solution from RFgen.

At a glance...

Industry

Transportation

Application

Equipment and Plant Maintenance (EPM)
PO Processing
Inventory Management

Environment

Oracle's JD Edwards EnterpriseOne 9.0

A transportation company is the private operator of an automated rail-based rapid transit system serving a large city and a metropolitan airport. The company warehouses many spare parts to maintain the trains and employs specialized technicians to make repairs and perform preventative maintenance.

The Challenge

The company uses Oracle's JD Edwards EnterpriseOne to track spare parts inventory and maintenance activities. To update the system, they were using a paper-based manual process where information was collected and then data entered into JD Edwards. This not only made inventory management difficult, it was inefficient and error prone. It also impacted productivity since nighttime personnel who needed to issue parts for work orders did not have after-hours access to the JD Edwards system.

Furthermore, the company procured spare parts and other inventory items from suppliers via purchase orders in JD Edwards. A requirement under national safety regulations mandated the collection and tracking of serial numbers on train parts. Compliance with this government mandate required more steps in the company's manual receiving process.

To address these issues, the company began looking for an automated data collection software solution that could integrate with its JD Edwards system and extend JD Edwards transactions onto wireless RF devices in the shop and store room, thus enabling the company to improve receiving, parts issuance, and inventory management. Using mobile devices with barcode scanning would also make it easier to comply with the government regulation about serialization of spare parts.

The Solution

RFgen Mobile Foundations for Oracle's JD Edwards was selected as the best platform to address the challenges. After evaluating three solutions, the company chose RFgen because of its open architecture and flexibility to adapt to the unique needs of their business.

RFgen delivers certified integration with JD Edwards and is highly customizable. For security and tracking purposes, RFgen connects to JD Edwards using a named user configuration, with user accounts authenticated by Microsoft Active Directory.

To comply with the regulation requiring serial numbers on all train parts, the company affixes barcode labels to all inventory items. When inventory is received or consumed, employees scan the attached barcodes and RFgen captures details about the transactions and posts them to JD Edwards in real time.

The company asked RFgen to customize and implement the solutions in just one month. The RFgen team got to work and delivered a solution that matched their exact requirements while staying on time and budget. The entire solution was deployed in just three weeks.

The Result

The company uses RFgen with mobile devices (Motorola bar code scanners) to receive JD Edwards purchase orders by line. As each line is received, RFgen posts the receipt to JD Edwards and prints out serialized labels for the items received. If the supplier is not ISO certified, a work order is automatically issued to initiate quality control processes.

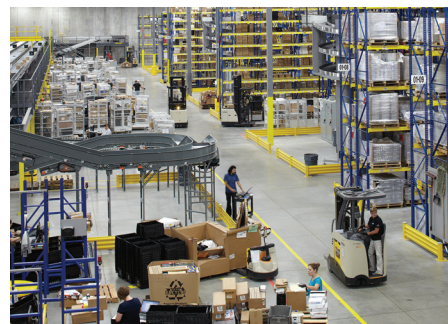


RFgen also facilitates the issue of spare parts and inventory items from the store room to work orders. Technicians can issue their own parts to a repair order using RFgen on a mobile device. This is especially helpful for the nighttime technicians since by using RFgen, they no longer need access to JD Edwards to complete their work.

Using RFgen in its operations has enabled this transportation company to:

- Mobilize inventory transactions and inquiries so workers in the store room and on the shop floor can use JD Edwards without directly accessing a workstation session.
- Eliminate much of the time-consuming paperwork associated with inventory management.
- Comply with regulations that require the serialization of every part on each train.
- Optimize inventory cycle counting, even in locations without Wi-Fi connectivity.

RFgen helps manage inventory throughout the warehouse and store room. Using mobile devices, workers can easily perform inventory transfers, issue items out of inventory, and make inquiries about item inventory levels, location, and history by serial number.



The company also automated cycle counting with RFgen. In locations where there is no Wi-Fi connectivity, the RFgen cycle count application is used in a disconnected mode with results cached locally on the mobile devices. When finished, the user uploads the cycle count to the RFgen server for processing against JD Edwards.

Based on the success of this project, RFgen is currently being implemented across other divisions of the larger parent company, starting with a division that maintains petroleum industry assets including offshore drilling rigs and pipelines.

About RFgen Software

RFgen Software helps organizations reduce supply chain implementation costs and increase accuracy and efficiency with the industry's most reliable and flexible mobile data collection software and supply chain automation solutions.

Enabling you to increase productivity by providing your mobile workforce with real-time and on-demand access to enterprise data, RFgen's mobile data collection solutions easily connect Windows, Android and Apple iOS mobile devices like barcode scanners, tablets, handheld computers, voice recognition devices and more to your back office ERP systems and databases, including Oracle's JD Edwards, Oracle E-Business Suite, SAP, SAP Business One, Deltek Costpoint and more.

In business since 1983, RFgen is known in the manufacturing and distribution industries for its solid, high-quality products and high customer satisfaction ratings among its more than 2,800 customers. With a global reach and local touch, RFgen and its network of more than 140 certified solution partners can support your organization no matter where your operations are located around the world.

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