

Postal Scanning Solutions

Fierce competition in the postal industry forces organizations to commit to their public service obligations. The use of innovations such as identification technologies increases transparency and contributes to visible leadership. To keep the delivery of the mail flow accurate and efficient, the mobile operators need to keep the promise of quick delivery. Internal mail flows at distribution centres are already automated on a large scale. Automation can easily be expanded to in-the-field distribution to add an increase in profitability.

Track and trace is the commonly used term for tracking items via standardized reference numbers or dedicated barcodes. Barcodes, attached on mail and parcels, enable complete traceability of the products. Here, the Opticon mobile devices with integrated scanners show their added value. Fast and effective barcode data capture is the key to using the already available data on the postal label and showing information concerning the quality, cost and time of the activity. Opticon offers modern solutions, which can facilitate user tasks during any activity in the field. Mobile solutions keep the field workforce completely on the move while still being connected to the enterprise database. Field personnel can look up, add, delete and edit the status of multiple activities or just report it, all depending on the needs of tracing the mail flow. Communicating field data to the enterprise database can be realized by several methods including GSM, EDGE, GPRS, serial batch transmission, Bluetooth and WiFi. GPS also belongs to the options. Operators and their deliveries can therefore be traced at any location, which can quickly be made visible to the customer.

THE INDUSTRY

Opticon has established a position in the postal market. The products in its portfolio especially suitable for the postal industry have grown to a complete range consisting of advanced real-time data collectors, GPS devices and smart-phones. Opticon's initial products in the postal industry were barcode data collectors. These devices are still very popular, ideal for en-route tracking and well known for their compactness and ergonomic design. The equipment evolved by listening to the demand of the postal industry. Businesses used to look at consumer-grade devices when implementing mobile solutions.

Devices equipped with Windows Mobile keep the workforce in touch with the office and the enterprise systems. They can operate these devices without training as the look and feel are familiar to consumer software. The wireless connectivity suite enables communication on the road via existing WiFi infrastructure.



GPS

The latest development incorporates GPS enabling workforces to easily find their destination and - even more important - to connect the business application data to the absolute GPS times and real-world coordinates. The key benefit of GPS in Opticon solutions is that operators can also record their geographical location with their other registrations and scanned data. The availability of this technology to include the route locations enhances the analysis of movements throughout the world. With real-time locating solutions, the response time between the movement of the goods and the information supply in the system is clearly reduced to a minimum, improving the reliability and accuracy of routing data. The system can accurately report the time of completion with the proof of delivery. Using mobile technologies, the process can be coordinated from one central point, leaving out paperwork and delays. Mobile track and trace provides real-time and - if needed - cross-border information and therefore accurate traceability of goods. It makes postal authorities reliable and leading service providers.