



US-based Drug Company Leverages IT to Eliminate Inefficiencies, Cut Losses, Improve FDA Compliance

Client

The client is a US-based global provider of drug delivery technologies and develops solution for drugs, biologics and consumer health products. With over 8,700 employees working from 31 facilities, across five continents, the enterprise clocks \$1.8 bn in annual revenue.

Challenge

The client needed a cost-effective, agile and an efficient solution to:

- Reduce errors and the time taken by the existing manual material container tracking and reporting processes.
- Minimize rework and wastage with timely alerts to move material containers back to a cold storage environment, within a pre-defined Time out Environment (ToE) duration.
- Quickly obtain accurate, high-quality data for investigations into material containers exceeding ToE duration, and efficiently report discrepancies.

Solution

Architected and implemented a cloud-based ToE control solution (following a business need assessment), to track the containers' life cycles, integrating an RFID-based Internet of Things (IoT) framework with the client's ERP. The solution framework was based on disposable UHF RFID tags for containers, Honeywell RFID printers, scanners, readers and antennae, with Oracle IoT Cloud and Oracle JD Edwards Enterprise One platforms and included:

- An automated system, to monitor and report on the cumulative time the material containers spent out of their designated cold storage environment, during the material's life span, within the cold storage facilities.
- RFID tags attached to material containers, and RFID antennae and readers at the cold storage facility entry and exit points to monitor the 'in-out' operations and communications (over a Wi-Fi network using the Oracle IoT Cloud platform).
- A seamless business process integration with the ERP system using RFID tags and scanning at every stage - receiving, inventory and warehousing, manufacturing and shipping.
- Escalation SMS, email notifications and alarms to alert breaches of pre-set ToE thresholds.
- Improved material container handling data operations, customer reporting and compliance with FDA statutory requirements.

Benefits

- Real-time visibility of material containers and timely alerts to take corrective action and avoid material loss
- Elimination of inefficiencies and discrepancies due to manual tracking and reporting of material containers
- Limited or no need for investigation into material containers exceeding the maximum ToE
- Significant savings through prevention of material and container loss
- Cost-effectiveness
- Zero disruption to business operations and no additional explicit data entry steps in the business process

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