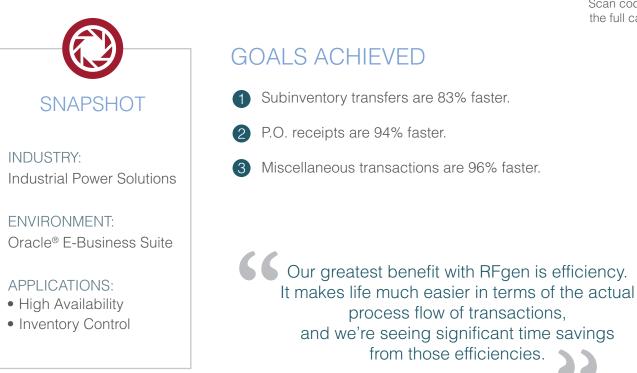**RFgen**

OVERVIEW

Leading industrial system integrator powers up more than 67-percent more efficient warehouse transactions using RFgen Mobile Foundations for Oracle® E-Business Suite.

Scan code to read
the full case study

SNAPSHOT

INDUSTRY:
Industrial Power Solutions

ENVIRONMENT:
Oracle® E-Business Suite

APPLICATIONS:
• High Availability
• Inventory Control

GOALS ACHIEVED

1. Subinventory transfers are 83% faster.

2. P.O. receipts are 94% faster.

3. Miscellaneous transactions are 96% faster.

> " Our greatest benefit with RFgen is efficiency.
> It makes life much easier in terms of the actual
> process flow of transactions,
> and we're seeing significant time savings
> from those efficiencies. "
>
> - Chris Eakin,
> Warehouse Supervisor, TMEIC

THE CHALLENGE

In Roanoke, TMEIC operates a warehouse, and an office building with simulation labs. Charles Eakin, warehouse supervisor for TMEIC, monitors and manages inventory being purchased from suppliers and delivered to the warehouse or directly to integrators and customers. "Our warehouse sees maybe 10-percent of our total volume. The rest of the volume is supplier-to-customer, supplier-to-integrator, integrator-to-customer, or supplier-to-a-freight-forwarder," Eakin stated.

Even though the warehouse received only a small fraction of the overall volume of supply, the manual data entry that had to be done in the warehouse and the business office was cumbersome. The data entry was also frustrating, because it often involved re-keying information that already existed in the company's ERP system.

"The warehouse operation was a very manual, tedious process. We do have Oracle, but the transactions we were doing were very, very time consuming. The efficiency wasn't there. We're an automation company, so we decided to make some improvements," recalled Eakin.

Another problem they were looking to solve occurred at the end of each month when the finance department shut off access to Oracle while they closed the books. Although the warehouse team continued to work, they were unable to process transactions in Oracle for a day or two. "We have a lot of shipments coming in and going out, so it got to be pretty painful at times," admitted Eakin.

THE SOLUTION

The team at TMEIC looked for a solution that would enable them to process warehouse transactions more efficiently using barcode scanners. They evaluated several data collection solutions looking for the best fit. One was too expensive; another did not meet all of TMEIC's needs. Through a partnership with Inovity, Eakin was introduced to RFgen.

After talking with the solutions team at RFgen, Eakin felt that they could provide the right infrastructure for TMEIC with efficient integration to the Oracle system. "What RFgen was able to provide for us— within our budget—was far beyond what anybody else that we spoke with was able to offer," said Eakin.

"Something that really interested us was being able to use RFgen with multiple types of tables. It wasn't just a front end user interface that had to tie into Oracle. We could also have it tie into Excel® or an Access® database. Some of the stuff that we do here on site is outside of the normal Oracle process flow, and we use outside tables a lot."

> " In just the warehouse alone, RFgen saves us about two hours per week on time for miscellaneous transactions, P.O. transactions from inventory, receiving transactions and sales order transactions. "
>
> - Chris Eakin,
>   Warehouse Supervisor, TMEIC

RFgen deployed quickly and it did not take long to learn how to use the new system. "RFgen was literally so easy and self-explanatory that you could turn the desktop version on and walk right through," Eakin recalled. "With my warehouse guys, I gave them the handhelds, walked through the transactions one time with them, and they rolled with it. The interface is very, very simplified."

THE RESULT

Eakin and his three warehouse employees all use RFgen and it helps the team complete order management and incoming inventory processes much more quickly than they could using Oracle alone.

Now that their most common warehouse transactions have been automated by RFgen, Eakin is moving ahead with additional development projects. "We're working with RFgen and Inovity right now to develop a process and transaction with the handhelds that will track the movement of parts to our simulation labs using an Excel spreadsheet or Access database outside of Oracle... We had enough development hours to still fit this in under the original budget, so we were extremely pleased with that."

With RFgen driving automation throughout its warehouse and logistics operations, TMEIC can more efficiently deliver solutions that drive industry. "Our greatest benefit with RFgen is efficiency. It makes life much easier in terms of the actual process flow of transactions, and we're seeing significant time savings from those efficiencies."

ABOUT TMEIC

TMEIC North America's products and services are designed to help industrial customers, such as mills, mines and manufacturers, get the power they need to drive operations. TMEIC solutions include the rotating machinery that serves as the driving force for factories and plants, the power electronics that transform and control the required electric power, and the engineering expertise to deliver automation to customers.

RFgen