Toyota Canada



CASE STUDY:

Leading Canadian vehicle manufacturer and distributor gains product stage visibility with RFgen Mobile Foundations for their Yard Management Systems.



Rigen

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GOALS ACHIEVED

- 1 Improved operational throughput.
- 2 Increased product stage visibility.
- 3 Enhance customer service for both consumers and their dealer network

As each vehicle arrives at the processing building, the RFID tag triggers various readers throughout the facility as to what the vehicles next steps are.

> - Consultant, RFgen Software

THE CHALLENGE

Toyota Canada began discussions with Ahearn & Soper Inc. in 2005 regarding the updating of their vehicle processing systems and operational procedures to match the companies projected growth curve for the future. One of their Vehicle Processing Centers (VPC) was to receive a new state-of-the-art building facility and required new technology to compliment and enhance the new way of processing vehicles. Toyota recognized processing vehicles individually during the rail off loading process, instead of in batch as they were currently, would provide efficiencies and improve operational throughput while at the same time enhance customer service for both consumers and their dealer network.

THE SOLUTION

Ahearn & Soper worked collaboratively with Toyota in designing a Yard Management System (YMS) that included the following:

- Rugged mobile technology from LXE connected to the RFgen software
- The use of wireless technology for their 300,000 square foot property
- RFID technology to track processing stages of the vehicle received into the yard and through the processing center
- Automated printing functions and parts allocation
- An administrative console for reporting, system set-up and planning
- A backend system integration with their current vehicle processing system on the mainframe
- Encapsulated, reusable RFID tags

In brief, inbound vehicles still in transit to the VPC from the manufacturing plants, are pre-loaded into the Ahearn & Soper supplied system. VPC operations use this data to perform capacity analysis, pre-sort planning and parts ordering, etc.

When a vehicle arrives, a mobile device connected to RFgen validates and receives it, inspects it and directs it to its first point of rest (FPOR) in the yard. The RFgen application updates the solution database and assigns an Ahearn & Soper designed and built RFID tag to the vehicle which is used in the next stages of the process. As each vehicle arrives at the processing building, the RFID tag triggers various readers throughout the facility as to what the vehicles next steps are.

These steps include:

- Printing new vehicle information forms
- Vehicle option parts allocation
- Vehicle option installation work order tracking
- Vehicle yard placement

THE RESULTS

Throughout the above steps, the YMS updates the backend system with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) status change in near real time. When a vehicle reaches its last point of rest in the yard, carriers are notified that it is ready for pick up and delivery.





ABOUT TOYOTA

More than a car company, Toyota is a part of the fabric of everyday life on roads and in communities across North America. Since

opening our first plant in 1984, it's operations now stretch from coast-to-coast-to-coast, helping to fuel local economies, support good works, and take millions of people to where they need to go everyday – safely and enjoyably.

