Increase Visibility And Velocity With Real-Time Asset Management Solutions

VERSION 1.0

Within a year of implementing automated identification technology and radio frequency identification (RFID) to locate disassembled parts at various stages of the refurbishing process, the Tobyhanna, Pa., U.S. Army Depot achieved near real-time visibility into each item’s status, along with easier analysis to prevent bottlenecks, and savings estimated at $450,000 per year.

Throughout government, visibility and decentralized execution are increasingly critical to improving operational performance and delivering the vital insight managers at all levels require to quickly make decisions aimed at better serving the needs of stakeholders and constituents.

In most government facilities, asset management is the essential ingredient for building the visibility agencies require. Equipment and supply tracking, for example, is critical to air base operations, depot maintenance, fleet management and even intelligence collection and dissemination. While many government organizations have had to ‘make do’ with inherently inaccurate manual processes – sometimes using pen and paper, and diverting key personnel from operational tasks – most now realize that automated real-time information is ready for prime time, and can dramatically improve performance on mission-critical tasks.

The Tobyhanna Army Depot selected an active RFID, Real-time Locating System (RTLS) from Zebra, which now quickly locates and provides status information on each tagged item in the refurbishing process and allowed the organization to achieve a return on investment in less than a year.

Separately, a key government contractor, Navistar Defense deployed Zebra standards-based active RFID RTLS to automate work-in-process for the contractor’s Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles used by the Department of Defense (DoD). The system accelerates delivery of vehicles to the field, supporting Navistar’s ultimate goal to protect troops through rapid deployment of MRAP vehicles.

Understanding the Solutions Real-time Asset Management Solutions from Zebra enable accurate asset management by automating maintenance and repair operations, flight line and discrete manufacturing processes for the Air Force, Army, Navy/Marines, intelligence community, Homeland Security and defense industry equipment manufacturers.

Zebra Technologies provides wireless solutions for tracking and managing assets in the aerospace and defense industries. Federal organizations employ Zebra location solutions sophisticated hardware, software and services to locate, track, manage and optimize high-value assets such as cargo, equipment and even people. The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), for example, is using Zebra RFID technology to ensure appropriate control, redistribution and disposition of government personnel and property at the Washington Navy Yard. RFID activators are located at all building entry and exit points, including emergency exits, loading docks and roll-up doors, and at all perimeter fence gates to track equipment as it exits the facilities.
Zebra’s Real-time Asset Management Solutions track everything from computer equipment to airplanes, giving managers and workers the visibility required to increase productivity and efficiency, and reduce both search time and property losses as personnel and items move through all stages of daily operations.

Zebra customers such as the U.S. Air Force have increased productivity, lowered costs and strengthened both safety and security. The Air Force implemented an asset visibility solution with help from systems integrator Computer Sciences Corp., which has improved tracking of data processing equipment, enabled the Air Force to trace components through repair processes, reduce search time and maintain both accountability and productivity for maintenance personnel at six air bases.

Zebra helps government agencies achieve a rapid ROI and deliver solutions that can endure the demands of the toughest military and industrial environments. These solutions are safe for use around flammable vapors, HERO tested and cleared for use in facilities processing highly classified information.

Zebra Technologies Corp. offers world-class solutions to optimize the flow of goods and manage assets across the global supply chain.

Zebra Enterprise Solutions is an industry leader in Ultra Wide-band (UWB), an emerging wireless technology for communications, precision localization, RFID and radar applications.

Zebra Technologies extends asset visibility reach beyond passive RFID by employing state-of-the-art software and hardware solutions to locate, track, manage and optimize high-value assets, equipment and people across the world’s largest supply chains. Whether tracking containers through a port, optimizing parts for manufacturing, or managing ground support equipment at an airport, the Real-time Asset Management Solutions from Zebra provide improved visibility and velocity to gain measurable operational improvements. Utilizing products that are based on ISO/IEC 24730-2, Cisco CCX Wi-Fi, precision GPS and UWB technologies, Zebra offers a wide range of location solutions that are "application matched," enabling its customers to put the right asset in the right place at the right time.

Delivering Technology for Mission Critical Operations Using data from barcodes, RFID, RTLS and global positioning satellite (GPS) technologies, Zebra assists public sector organizations in tracking and managing essential assets in environments that include:

- **Lean Manufacturing** — Accurately tracking and managing work in process, material replenishment and asset utilization is essential to maximize throughput and efficiency in manufacturing environments. Zebra’s Real-time Location System (RTLS) solutions help organizations become more efficient by providing real-time visibility into internal and external operations, creating more streamlined and automated processes that reduce waste, improve productivity and achieve continuous process improvements.

- **Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)** — Repairs, maintenance and overhaul operations require expertise and the multifaceted infrastructure of a manufacturing shop, along with the added complexity of condition-based routing. Zebra systems provide work groups and constrained facilities with the visibility to capture real-time data from work in process and equipment that can help them make informed decisions. By automating specific processes, human error and cycle times are reduced, and time previously spent searching for parts is eliminated.

- **Equipment and Asset Tracking** — In large, complex manufacturing environments, Zebra streamlines the management of equipment and assets such as Automated Data Processing Equipment (ADPE) and Test Measurement & Diagnostic Equipment (TMDE). Providing real-time visibility to track and monitor expensive equipment inside or outside a facility optimizes utilization and improves security.

- **Flight Line Operations** — Campus-based activities such as flight line operations require a synchronization of mission-critical tasks, using multiple specialized teams.