Tailor-Made Kitchens with Radio Frequency

Snaidero chooses the Dragon™ RF reader from Datalogic to improve its production flow and guarantee high flexibility.

The Snaidero Group is one of the top five kitchen manufacturers in Europe. Since its foundation in 1946 by Rino Snaidero, the company has reached a leading position in the international market, acquiring a series of leading European companies from 1993 onwards. Today the Snaidero Group has eight brands, seven production facilities in Italy, France and Germany, a staff of more than 1,700 and 2,000 points of sale in over 80 countries.

The Needs of Snaidero

To support this development and assure products and services of high quality, Snaidero implemented a strategy to steadily improve company processes. To make this strategy operative, it changed its supply chain management and developed appropriate solutions together with selected partners including Datalogic to support the new SCM processes which manage an increasingly complex manufacturing system. In fact, over the years Snaidero had noted an increased complexity due to a multiplication of the codes managed (for the components alone it has reached a total of 100,000), the speed of movements, and the type of manufacturing facility which differs vertically, in so far as the Group does not only assemble third party components, but also produces them itself. Furthermore, the Snaidero portfolio is greatly differentiated and has a high number of items (approximately 30%) which are made to order and hence personalised according to customer requests.

The Solution

Snaidero turned to IBS, a Datalogic Quality Partner in Italy specialised in the value added distribution of products and technologies for automatic identification, and after careful evaluation it chose the Dragon™ RF industrial hand held reader due to its features which best respond to the application needs. Snaidero was looking for a simple and robust portable hand held reader, of a good technological standard with few but easy buttons to be used by operators without any specific skills. The Dragon™ RF readers are easy to hold and are robust, and are used for continuous working cycles carrying out each day 100 to 1000 reads.

The Dragon™ is used in the finishing plant where final operations are carried out after the production of the components: picking and personalising/pre-assembly of components, assembly, control and packing, shipping. It captures data to manage events like synchronisation, control of work in progress, picking and checking of consistency between orders, production and delivery.

Customer
Snaidero

Industry
Manufacturing

Application
Shop Floor

Country
Italy

Datalogic Business Solution
Work in Progress

Datalogic Product
Dragon™ Mobile

Datalogic Partner
I.B.S.

"Due to the complexity of the tasks posed, Datalogic, with its extensive product portfolio quickly crystallised as a competent partner for our challenges."

Pierangelo Snaidero
IT director for the Snaidero Group

How it Works
Customer orders are first controlled by the internal service team and then elaborated by the IT system to determine the component and sub-assembly requirements and generate manufacturing or purchase requests for the various standard and non-standard elements (the latter according to customer orders and often accompanied by a drawing).

The single kitchen orders are then scheduled for shipping (assignment of a means of r ansport, loading date and sequence) and sent to the factory day by day via the IT system which transmits the data to the various departmental systems on site in the factories to which the support and control of production and finishing activities are assigned.

Each single part of the kitchen is assigned to a flow which defines the logistics-production procedure over the various departments. Each flow has a series of statuses (e.g. for a cabinet without electrical appliance: scheduled, issued, pre-mounted doors, pre-mounted frames, assembled, packaged and lastly loaded) via which it is possible to follow the progress or status of the kitchen, or in other words the individual customer order. From the moment in which an order is issued all the phases of progress for each element are controlled by the stations present in the various departments by using the Dragon™ RF reader. Each time that a status is reached it must be registered and this is done by reading the bar code applied to each component to declares each progress or anomaly in real time, thanks to radio frequency transmissions, so as to have an updated overview of the situation. The data is transmitted to the department stations and the main stations (finishing and loading) which are all connected in a network. These stations provide the overseers with visibility on how the activities are proceeding and therefore, they can check if they are ahead of time or delayed, whether there are any pending and the causes, as well as evaluate needs and see which orders are ready or not. This makes it easier for them to decide what action to undertake and with which priority.

Only if a message appears on the display of the Dragon™ to confirm good read and that the status has been updated, is a passage to the next status permitted. This occurs for each status up until the last one is reached, i.e. when the product is loaded on the truck and the Dragon™ is used to read the codes to confirm that it has been loaded and guarantee that the predefined sequences for the deliveries have been followed.

Benefits
This solution provides Snaidero with several benefits, namely an increase in the quality of service offered and a reduction in costs. Snaidero has been able to optimise the index of rotation of the warehouses, reduce supplies and improve customer service by reducing delivery errors and assuring punctuality with respect to the date set. Additionally, it can now assure a greater saturation of the plants, reduce discards and increase the efficiency of manpower, and a centre has be created which can control and highlight abnormalities in production.

"Thanks to this system which uses the Dragon™ readers," states Pierangelo Snaidero, IT Director for the Snaidero Group, "we can better manage the high complexity of our processes. In this way we can assure our customers effectiveness and efficiency while at the same time high flexibility, all with contained costs."

Snaidero has been using Datalogic's fixed position scanners ever since it adopted bar codes, and had already installed the Dragon™ readers with cable, but to implement the new system it was necessary to use the RF readers which provide greater mobility for operators. Currently in the plant of Majano, in the north of Italy, 30 readers with cable continue to be used for all operations for which great movement is not necessary, and another 50 RF readers have been added. The Group is also evaluating the possibility to extend the use of the Dragon™ RF reader in other manufacturing plants.

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