



UAB „DS projektai“ , Lukiškių 5- 113, Vilnius, Lithuania
Company code 301498806, VAT num. LT100003980419
E-mail: info@dsprojektai.lt , http://dsprojektai.lt/index_en.html
Phone: +370 686 33711

Automating warehouse operation using barcode technology

Parties involved:

Client: UAB „DOJUS agro“



UAB “DOJUS agro” is a Lithuanian capital company. It has been successfully operating in agricultural sector for more than 25 years. Company’s main activities involve selling and servicing farming and lawn caring machinery and its spare parts. A developing field for the company is reselling of used machinery and renting of farming machinery.

At the moment UAB “DOJUS Agro” is the biggest reseller of western farm machinery in Lithuania and is a market leader in many main machine categories. According to “Plimsoll” company takes 72nd place in EU in the list of the largest vendors of farming machinery. Company usually sells about 400-500 units of self-propelled and about 300 units of tractor-drawn implement per year. Due to a great post-sale service these numbers grow every year. Company has 5 regional service centres in Kaunas, Šiauliai, Vilnius, Panavėžys and Šakiai.

“According to UAB “DOJUS agro” employees this system saves about 400 working hours for warehouse workers per year (cost of 1.5 employees per year).”

Implementer: UAB DS Projektai



UAB "DS projektai" specializes in automated data collection and its integration into company’s management systems. Most of the time these are barcode or RFID technology based solutions for logistics or manufacturing companies. Company focuses on customer needs analysis and preparation of an optimal solution.

Situation analysis:

As UAB “DOJUS Agro” grows and expands its activities, company’s sales in spare parts also grow, their warehousing processes also become increasingly important – receiving and picking speed, efficient and optimal use of warehousing space, transparency of warehousing all warehousing processes, number of errors, fast and accurate inventory counts. In order to minimize number of errors in picking, picked goods are additionally checked before shipping – which is a necessary but slow procedure. Product identification and manual data entry into ERP system also means possible (and very probable) errors.



Key problems:

- Warehouse operations take a long time, require a lot of manual labour;
- Mistakes in product identification;
- Errors on data entry into company’s ERP system.



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Solution:



Barcode technology was used in order to make warehouse operations faster and more accurate. UAB “DS Projektai” analysed client’s situation, prepared a software specification document, created required application for handheld computer with integrated barcode scanner and integrated that application with client’s ERP – Microsoft Dynamic AX. This solution includes receiving of goods, picking and shipping, inventory counts, and movement of goods inside the warehouse – all these operations were adapted according to client’s warehousing and order fulfilment processes. User administration was also implemented – every operation is traced and workers user name is captured. Warehousing locations are fully implemented – for every operation user has information about

where required goods are stored in the warehouse. Since from the very beginning it was intended as a multi-country project, the software was designed so that it would be easy to change user interface language. At the moment Lithuanian and Latvian interfaces are used.

Zebra MC3190 handheld computers are used in the warehouse. NiceLabel software is used for label preparation and printing.

Results:

- Receiving of goods from major suppliers takes approx. one day less.
- Verification of picked goods is a lot less time consuming.
- Warehouse operation data entry into ERP system is fully automated.
- According to UAB “DOJUS agro” employees, this system saves about 400 working hours for warehouse workers per year (cost of 1.5 employees per year).
- After a successful implementation in the central warehouse and in company branches in Lithuania, the system was translated and implemented in company’s warehouses in Latvia, SIA DOJUS Latvia.