



Affordable Real-Time Locating
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Removing waste from automotive manufacturing

Real time location visibility offers vast benefits to the automotive manufacturing process. The ability to locate specific vehicles in seconds, obtain historical data to show how long units spend in various departments, or even tracking carriers as they progress through the shipping yard all can bring immense value to your process.

RFind's active Tag to Tag communication technology offers this visibility for a fraction of the cost of conventional RTLS (Real Time Location Systems), and with better locating capabilities.



Our clients approached us with an overwhelming challenge for them. Hundreds of cars every day come off the assembly line. Over ten thousand hands touch each vehicle during manufacturing. Inevitably, there were defects caused by human or machine error, resulting in damage to the vehicle that had to be repaired before delivery to the showroom floor. Finding this vehicle, during or immediately after the manufacturing process was exceptionally time consuming, with literally hours spent looking for one vehicle. The challenge was to find this specific one in the storage lot parked with a thousand just like it, or in the plant again with hundreds of cars just like it.

The solution we deployed made this task fast, efficient and carried dramatic positive financial impact for our client. Using the Rfind active Tag toTag technology, finding the vehicles became effortless. Reference tags were placed on existing infrastructure like building supports, light posts, lot fences and walls of the assembly buildings. Then an asset tag was placed into each vehicle requiring rework, and the condition of that rework noted in an application. Then, at any point in the day each department could pull a real-time report that showed exactly where the vehicles they need to rework are. Then, they simply went directly to that vehicle to bring it back for the needed service.

The installation of this technology was performed during regular business hours, with no loss of revenue and minimal impact to the operation during the deployment. The benefits realized were primarily found in the time savings for the individuals charged with the collection of rework vehicles. However, secondary benefits were found in the ability to organize the workflow and personnel placement for the rework process, resulting in greater overall efficiency and safer operations. Additionally, data being recorded in the Expedito 2D system has given our client insight into how much time a vehicle spends in what area, and what impact this has on the overall time to deliver.

Other technologies were explored and ruled out for various reasons. Passive technology was unable to provide the granularity of location desired for a smooth operation. Competing active tag technology could not achieve

the accuracy of our solution for more than three times the installed cost of our solution. And all others evaluated required far more infrastructure and a much more complex installation which was disruptive to the manufacturing environment.

Beyond the goals met for this client, other benefits can be achieved using our real-time locating system. Identifying which carrier is at which loading slot can dramatically increase the effectiveness of your loading process. How much time is lost loading vehicles, then unloading and reloading to jockey them for correct loading positions? Also, ensuring correct location for carriers means loading operations are focused on loading, not searching for the right truck.

Reducing the time spent on the manufacturing of a given vehicle reduces the cost to deliver it, period. Using RFind's active tag-to-tag technology makes the process of finding valuable data and assets quick and easy, and at a fraction of the cost our competitors charge. RFind could help you start your saving today.