

Forwarder John

Order in Orange

Forwarder John is a medium sized freight forwarding and logistics company, operating nationally as well as internationally. In addition to the warehouse space with over 100,000-square-foot John forwarding features a 100,000-square-foot logistics warehouse.



For the barcode scanning of incoming and outgoing shipments, the company uses over 50 mobile data terminals from Motorola equipped with the mobile telematics software PSV3®. Most of them are only active at night, when the 70,000 square-foot transshipment hall serves as the central hub of the cargo cooperation CargoLine.

The forwarder was looking for a space-saving solution without any clutter to store and simultaneously charge about two thirds of unused devices during the day and asked for advice at TIS.

FIRST ORDER OF THIS KIND

The solution offered by TIS includes three clean and lockable metal cabinets with a capacity of 20 scanners each. The devices are fixed accurately in five rows one above the other and connected to robust outlet strips with power supply. They are fed from a central transformer, which makes the many bulky chargers usually in use unnecessary. In addition, the cabinets have electrical ventilation that provides for a largely dust-free storage behind the Plexi-glas doors.

"This solution creates order, is very compact and also saves us the acquisition of more than 50 individual power supplies," says Aleksej Dolheimer. After all, for professional hand-held scanners charg-ers are listed as single items on the price list and can now be waived cost-effectively. In addition, the energy efficiency of the three main trans-formers is significantly higher than the solution with individually switched-on power supplies.

Another argument is the easier maintenance: The cabinets can quickly be cleaned with a wet wipe, while individual chargers are very sensitive to moisture. "The cleaning of individual charging stations was therefore much more difficult in the past," notes Dolheimer.

The special furniture in orange comes from England and was specifically designed for the Motorola MC9590, for which the forwarder had decided at the generation exchange of their mobile data terminals.

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"Our contact had seen the cabinets recently at a trade show and was able to provide us with brochures," Dolheimer recalls. Two weeks later the order for three closets arrived at TIS - as the first order of its kind for the Bocholt telematics specialists.

MODIFIED HARDWARE

Other features of the MC9590 devices in use as hall scanners affect the hardware: The experts at TIS have complemented the robust exterior by essential hardware modules. The innovations include a base casing for active transponders for tracking and an ergonomic trigger handle. Both are not offered by Motorola. These additions transform the device into a multi-functional data terminal, which offers a scanner, camera, transponder and the ergonomics required by logistics.

POWERFUL SOFTWARE

In the next step forwarder John wants to take advantage of the other benefits of the new mobile data terminals with scanners. Because in addition to the universal emulation the devices, configured by TIS, master a particularly efficient form of photo documentation, which has been integrated into the regular workflow. By this the staff of John forwarding can document certain special events during goods handling really easy, without placing the mobile data terminal or the scanner aside. The picture created is automatically linked to the previously scanned package number and thus clearly assigned. If something needs to be photographed, the staff of John's shipping department so far have to get a digital camera, create the photos and subsequently deliver them to the office. There, the images are downloaded and the package number is assigned manually to the file name.

Against this background, the new solution was able to convince instantly during the test operation with two new devices: The simplified work flow through the integrated photo function abruptly led to a significantly increased amount of pictures and noticeably lowered efforts for post-editing. The result is a significantly better documentation of shipments. Soon, the new photo feature will go into actual operation at John forwarding. Then the hall scanners will become even more valuable to the forwarder - one more reason for a safe and dust-free storage.

BACKGROUND TIS GMBH

The TIS GmbH, based in Bocholt, focuses on solutions for mobile order management and currently employs a staff of around 40 people. TIS stands for "Technische Informationssysteme" (Technical Information Systems) and was founded 28 years ago by Josef Bielefeld. Based on industry PDAs with Windows CE operating systems, TIS has developed various solutions for transport and logistics (PSV3-TL) under the brand PSV3 with a focus on groupage freight and full truckload transportation.

PSV3 is a telematics and tracing system for mobile order, vehicle and driver data management in full truckload and part-load traffic.

PSV3 accelerates and optimizes the data exchange between the truck and head office. Besides that PSV3-TL is also available in special versions for gas and fluid transports (PSV3-GFL) and waste logistics (PSV3-ESL).

All maintenance and repair works are performed in the in-house TIS repair center in Bocholt.

As a special service the company offers 48- or even 24-hour service.

For more information visit
www.tis-gmbh.com