

VP Buildings Case Study



Company: VP Buildings, Inc. www.vp.com

Application: Product tracking system developed with Data Net's Co-Log/Open software

Environment: Multiple manufacturing facilities in the US and Mexico

Benefits:

- Real-time visibility of inventory production and movement
- Decreased finished product inventory levels
- Job site shipment error reduction

Company Overview: VP Buildings (wholly-owned subsidiary of Grupo IMSA, S.A. de C.V.)

VP Buildings is a world leader in the steel systems construction industry. VP Buildings designs and manufactures steel buildings ranging from small warehouses to entire office buildings. With a workforce of over 2000 in US and Mexican plants, VP manufactures building parts two shifts, six days per week. Finished products are shipped directly to customers and job sites.

Data Collection: The Need

Prior to 2001, VP had been using a 900 MHz RF mobile data collection system with limited communication to the legacy UNIX-based ERP system. Transactions on the handheld terminals were limited and modifications to the terminal emulation user interface were costly. With the forthcoming ERP upgrade and increasing warehouse activity, VP needed a cost-effective solution that would allow for easy modification without having to be dependant upon a consultant..

Data Net's Solution

VP Buildings' migration to a custom Windows-based ERP system allowed them the flexibility to develop their own data collection routines and host update models without the costly, arduous task of writing emulation programs. "We looked at multiple off the shelf applications for our data collection system. Data Net's Co-Log/Open not only provided us with an economical, scalable tool, but also an application which is quite easy for developers and non-developers to write custom data collection applications". – *Walt Wieners, Manufacturing Systems Manager, VP Buildings, Inc*

For more information contact Data Net

103 West Broad Street, Suite 620 Falls Church, Virginia 22046

Phone: 703-534-0600 • Fax: 703-534-7660

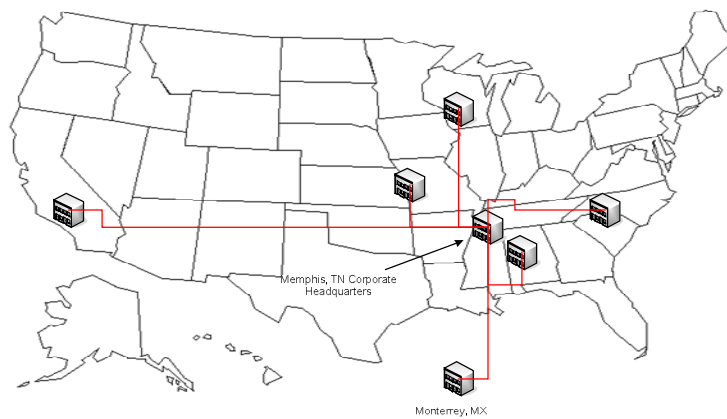
Visit us on the Web at www.data-net.com

VP Buildings Case Study



A VP employee scans a completed beam for shipment

VP Buildings Co-Log/Open Installations



Communications with the corporate offices in Memphis, Tennessee are achieved with T1 connections in each facility. Data collection activities are conducted over a Symbol 802.11b wireless infrastructure with Data Net's DNT 550 RF terminals. VP employees print and apply bar-coded labels to the finished product upon completion. Each label contains a unique piece identifier barcode. Once scanned the operator is able to determine the part number, production time and date and other data useful in the event of a recall.

For more information contact Data Net

103 West Broad Street, Suite 620 Falls Church, Virginia 22046
Phone: 703-534-0600 • Fax: 703-534-7660

Visit us on the Web at www.data-net.com

VP Buildings Case Study

By virtue of Co-Log/Open's flexibility, VP is able to quickly modify handheld terminal transaction sets and menus, depending on the needs of each facility.

"Co-Log/Open provides us with the means to allow each facility to operate independently, in terms terminal user interfaces and the types of transactions required". – *Walt Wieners, Manufacturing Systems Manager, VP Buildings, Inc*



A shipping employee verifies an outbound shipment

Benefits

VP Buildings' initial intention was to simply replace the aging 900 MHz system with a modern data collection solution to address only the needs of the shipping department. Eventually, the system was expanded to include the manufacturing process.

Installation of the Co-Log/Open system in late 2002 resulted in the following returns on investment for the company as soon as early 2003:

- Overall reduction in shortages- before the Co-Log/Open system rollout, VP Buildings found themselves scrambling to address acute inventory scratches caused by incomplete visibility of available inventory.
- Shipping error reduction- VP realized an overall reduction in shipping errors which result in expensive chargebacks, transportation and restocking costs.

For more information contact Data Net

103 West Broad Street, Suite 620 Falls Church, Virginia 22046

Phone: 703-534-0600 • Fax: 703-534-7660

Visit us on the Web at www.data-net.com