

# MGF Logistique

## Supply Chain Business Standards Move into the Future

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Philippe Bezamat  
Director of Information Systems,  
MGF Logistique

### ABOUT THE COMPANY

- MGF Logistique is a supply chain logistics specialist. The company provides continuous management of receiving, preparation, and shipping operations for major distribution, agribusiness, and industrial sectors. With a national network of over thirty sites across the northern, southern, and Paris regions of France, the organization comprises a total floor space of 570,000 m<sup>2</sup>. MGF Logistique is a subsidiary of the G7 group.

### BUSINESS CHALLENGE

- To offer a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) solution to suppliers and customers, to improve productivity and movement between warehouses, and to strengthen warehouse monitoring through visibility of the loading/unloading operations process.

MGF Logistique’s competitive growth strategy is based on the implementation of customized services. To attain its objectives, the company has built a made-to-measure, high-performance, and reliable information system. To further improve the quality of its service, to increase productivity, and to maintain its lead over the competition, MGF Logistique is investing in RFID.

In a highly competitive environment where responsiveness is crucial, having a near real-time view of merchandise movements in warehouses proves to be an essential objective, both for improving customer service and for internal operations. “We are betting on RFID to accelerate the execution of certain internal operations, particularly inventories”, says Philippe Bezamat, Director of Information Systems for MGF Logistique, “and we will also better control movements between sites.” The deployment of the RFID platform will be fully integrated into the existing information system to allow complete control of the end-to-end flow of streams.

### RFID ACCELERATES INTERNAL OPERATION TIME AND IMPROVES CUSTOMER SERVICE

“We were looking for a solution that would integrate transparently into our information system and that would ensure that our investment would be long-lasting”, states Philippe Bezamat. After an in-depth study of the offerings available on the market, MGF Logistique, advised by RFID Systèmes, an integrator specializing in RFID solutions, selected RFID Anywhere from Sybase. “This solution takes care of the RFID protocols and standards, such as EPCglobal’s Gen 2, ALE 1.0, ISO-15693, ISO-18000-3 and ISO-11784”, emphasizes Alexandre Marty, Project Manager at RFID Systèmes. This openness considerably simplifies the integration of the Sybase RFID platform into the information system. Furthermore, the RFID Anywhere connectors and controllers manage the interfaces with the most common RFID hardware components, readers, and printers, which make it possible to concentrate on business logic and to ensure the longevity of the investment.

Once the antennas are deployed and the trucks are equipped in the warehouses, RFID Anywhere handles the acquisition, filtering and verification of the information contained in the RFID tags so that only useful information is retained. The information is then transformed into an XML message and injected into the information system through Data Queue, a message queue management application. “This gives us a precise and almost real-time view of what is happening in our warehouses, as far as movement of goods goes”, concludes Philippe Bezamat.

MGF Logistique uses the centralized management feature available in RFID Anywhere to standardize and apply business rules in its warehouses; however, “RFID Anywhere is capable of highly granular configuration. It is possible to define a specific rule and apply it only to one loading dock of one of MGF Logistique’s warehouse system, if necessary,” declares Alexandre Marty; This flexibility makes it possible to respond to specific needs, whether temporary or long-term.

## SOLUTION

- Utilize Sybase RFID Anywhere to acquire, filter, and consolidate information contained in pallets of incoming and outgoing merchandise with fixed Intermec IF5 RFID readers for loading docks and mobile Intermec IV7 RFID readers for the forklift trucks.

## RESULTS

- Several hundred RFID tags read per second when loading and unloading trucks
- Saved 100,000 € equipping Amiens warehouse
- Flexibility of an RFID platform and associated processes to deliver new services to customers and suppliers
- Improved productivity, especially for internal operations such as inventory management
- Transition towards an event-driven architecture strategy, allowing business rules to be applied on-site in response to events

## INDUSTRY

- Retail
- Shipping

## SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

- RFID Anywhere enables acquisition, filtering and verification of the data contained in the RFID tags so only useful information is retained. This information is put into an XML message and entered into the system through Data Queue, a message queue management application. Hardware used includes Intermec IF5 fixed readers and Intermec IV7 forklift readers.

## ANTICIPATING FUTURE DEMANDS PRODUCES IMMEDIATE RESULTS

Productivity has improved significantly, particularly in the management of pallet movements between the group's different warehouses. When a truck unloads at a loading dock, the information contained in the pallets' RFID tags is transmitted to the information system. A check is then performed to ensure that the content corresponds to the packing slip. Similarly, when a truck is being loaded, a comparison is made automatically between the packing slip and the loaded pallets. This approach limits errors during these operations.

RFID makes it possible to verify the location of pallets in the warehouses, which is very beneficial for logistics specialists. For example, by simply pushing a truck equipped with an RFID reader down the aisles, the data on the RFID tags are automatically read, consolidated, and analyzed by the information system. "In this way, we can verify in a few seconds, for example, if the pallet is in the proper location or not", notes Philippe Bezamat. "This saves us an enormous amount of time, which we can then use to concentrate on value-added work." Finally, this approach makes it possible to shift business logic to RFID Anywhere so that action can be taken on-site. Knowing a truck is located in a warehouse at a precise location, it is then possible to send an order based on recent events. MGF Logistique's IS Director is significantly closer to his objective: to have an event-driven architecture.

## ABOUT RFID SYSTÈMES

RFID Systèmes is a specialist in RFID integration. Working in close collaboration with consulting firms, hardware manufacturers, and software vendors, its team of experts and technicians designs and installs operational RFID solutions based on the latest technological innovations. RFID Systèmes' activities are organized into 4 different areas: development of specific products, consulting services, integration of RFID solutions, and distribution of hardware and consumables.

## ABOUT RFID ANYWHERE

RFID Anywhere is a flexible software platform that simplifies the development, deployment, configuration, and management tasks for highly distributed, multi-site, intelligent sensor networks and abstracts the interaction with the physical network of devices. With support for over forty devices, this powerful infrastructure enables the out-of-the-box creation of intelligent sensor networks. By using RFID Anywhere, sensors are able to work together as an intelligent network by combining, organizing, and coordinating these technologies through a common management structure, advanced feature set, and event-driven development framework.

## ABOUT SYBASE IANYWHERE

Sybase iAnywhere enables success at the front lines of business. The company holds worldwide market leadership positions in mobile and embedded databases, mobile management and security, mobile middleware and synchronization, and Bluetooth® and infrared protocol technologies. Tens of millions of mobile devices and 20,000 customers and partners rely on the company's "Always Available" technologies, including SQL Anywhere and its Information Anywhere Suite. iAnywhere is a subsidiary of Sybase, Inc. (NYSE:SY).