



Silent Partner Technologies™, a developer and integrator of RFID asset and inventory management solutions.

Silent Partner Technologies™ develop, manufacture and implement leading edge RFID and barcode asset and inventory management solutions.

Silent Partner Technologies™ has a wide range of experience providing the best RFID and barcode technologies for a variety of industry needs.

This experience includes providing passive RFID technology for tracking military training simulation hardware, or the tracking and management of expensive RFID art assets across many retail locations real-time

Ted Kostis, president of Silent Partners Technologies in Tampa Bay, Florida

Project Summary

Company

Silent Partner Technologies™

Market

Asset and Inventory Management

Location

Tampa Bay, Florida



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idtracon P/L is Australasia's authorised agent for all your **METALcraft** R F I D and metal asset identification products

Using RFID labels means no lost artwork for dealers or collectors

Art tracking solution depends on RFID labels to help manage artwork collections around the world.

Opportunity: reliably track the location of artwork to prevent theft or loss

Many art museums, galleries and private collectors use cameras to secure their collections. Most also have processes for taking inventory or recording the movement of artwork within or across locations.

Some want systems that prevent the handling or movement of artwork and others are pained to keep inventory without visible bar codes or other identification.

Still, the value of artworks demands more than many art owners and custodians have invested in tracking these valuable assets, according to Silent Partner Technologies who brought their background in RFID and bar code tracking to the development of a flexible RFID solution for asset management and theft deterrence for high value artwork.

Solution: RFID enabled tracking

Silent Partner was first asked in 2007 to help an art store owner manage inventory across several galleries. RFID technology brought new approaches for the challenges faced by the art seller.

"Display, storage, transfers and sales are all important events when we're talking about high value artwork," said Ted Kostis, president of Silent Partner Technologies. "You want to know where your artwork is at all times."

The company's Web based solution covers asset management and theft deterrence using a mix of technologies suited to the needs of the individual collection manager.

In some installations, Ted Kostis installs antennae to complete a web based inventory automatically every few minutes. Other art owning clients are content to complete inventory with a handheld RFID reader during periodic inventory or handling or while moving from storage to display, for example.

In all instances, the premise is that each piece of artwork is detailed in a database and assigned to an RFID tag that is attached on the back or inside of the artwork - each tag's pre-encoded number links to the data, allowing a traceable history of each piece accessible via the Web.



Ted Kostis had relied on **METALcraft** for durable RFID and bar code products in other work, so he asked them to produce small, customised RFID labels for the artwork tracking solution.

"**METALcraft** labels come out gorgeous", said Ted Kostis. "We get the read range we need at a size that works discretely inside and behind artwork. They're keeping our clients happy."

Result: dependable identification and tracking of artwork collections

RFID greatly reduces the time to locate artwork and removes the need to handle a piece during identification thus "totally eliminating" the potential for catastrophe, such as dropping or destroying a work of art. Collection managers can identify artwork without moving it in a gallery or unpacking it from a shipping crate (tags read right through the crate), reducing labour, time, and potential damage.

The solution gives owners and sellers improved visibility of and control over artworks too. They can run more frequent inventory counts to get a handle on the whereabouts of the pieces of artwork at each location.

"Many in the art world still don't know that RFID exists," said Ted Kostis. "There's so much potential. RFID can help art sellers confidently expand. Museums and private collections get better visibility to high value artwork with less effort. "

Ted Kostis' recent testing with **METALcraft** RFID tags inventoried 93 larger paintings in a 30,000² foot floor in a New York City high rise in under three minutes and read 237 paintings inside a storage room under two minutes.

"How could one person do that work without RFID?" asks Ted Kostis. "It would easily take an hour, but most pieces aren't even moveable alone. We've figured out how to deliver faster, better art collection management, and art owners are taking notice."

Contact Peter Laws for more information on idtracon's barcode and RFID custom solutions.