



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

A new era of excellence is dawning at Texas Tech University as it stands on the cusp of being one of the nation's premier research institutions.

Research and enrolment numbers are at record levels. Texas Tech's total research expenditures topped \$150 million with 35,158 students. numbers in 2014

The university strives to foster an environment that celebrates student accomplishment above all else. Texas Tech is large enough to provide the best in facilities and academics, but small enough to focus on each student individually.



Headquartered in Austin, Texas, Radiant RFID was founded in 2004. RFID solutions have been deployed since the 1970s, with the technology expanding; Radiant RFID is one of the driving forces behind this advancement. At our R&D facility, we're developing cutting edge solutions for a wide variety of applications.

J. Hector Aranda, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Centre - Unit Manager

Project Summary

Company

Advanced Teaching and Assessment in Clinical Simulation Centre (ATACS) at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Centre

Market

Medical / Education

Location

El Paso, Texas



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

RFID asset tags from IT to IV pumps for Health Sciences Centre

Texas Tech Health Sciences Centre uses RFID to manage over 1,500 medical assets

Opportunity: protect assets of new medical school

Medical environments are filled with mobile assets; keeping track of the specialised equipment is vital for safe and efficient work.

This is especially true for the Advanced Teaching and Assessment in Clinical Simulation Centre (ATACS) at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Centre in El Paso, Texas. The 13,000 square foot state of the art research and teaching facility provides students, trainees, and physicians a venue for medical scholarship and research. Their inventory contains over 1,500 diverse assets ranging from laptops, projectors, stethoscopes, mannequins, skeletons, IV pumps, EKGs and more.



As the new Centre was purchasing valuable medical equipment in 2008, they needed a system for inventory management and asset tracking. Their Technology team knew RFID was a proven technology for these roles, and Unit Manager J. Hector Aranda found Radiant RFID in Austin, Texas. Radiant specialises in active and passive RFID technologies for monitoring the movement of people and assets and has developed systems for evacuation management, access control and asset tracking.

Solution: customised RFID enabled asset tracking

Radiant RFID's Virtual Asset Tracker solution is designed specifically for tracking and locating assets and allows the monitoring of all types of items. Using Radiant RFID's system to take inventory and track movement eliminates paper and manual inventory processes and provides confidence in inventory reporting.

Inventory is taken periodically with a handheld computer that reads RFID tags and synchronises with the Radiant VAT database. Users simply scan a room by moving the handheld toward items being inventoried meaning no crawling under desks, climbing on ladders or opening cabinets to read numbers or find asset tag or bar code IDs.

Periodic inventory checking wasn't the only concern, fixed RFID readers were also installed to allow staff to have a real time view of inventory and know if items are being removed from the premises by having the readers mounted above the ceiling tiles at key entry points.

"We wanted something very customised," said J Hector Aranda. "Radiant was asked to deliver something sophisticated and hidden. We wanted to make people comfortable in their work environment, keeping portals and other equipment out of the way."

For the RFID tags at the centre of the tracking and inventory solution, Radiant RFID turned to Metalcraft the provider of durable identification products had supported other Radiant customers needing durable tags for demanding applications. Metalcraft delivered a standardised RFID asset tag for most of the items and additional designs, including RFID hang tags, for hard to tag assets.

"**METALcraft** tags perform well on the 'non-traditional' items such as mannequins and medical equipment that were to be tracked," said Radiant RFID's Matthew Padon. "Additionally, we chose the **METALcraft** tags because of the read ranges and performance needed for fixed readers."

When the system was installed in 2009, J Hector Aranda's team began applying RFID tags to existing items.

"It took several months, doing a little bit every day," said J Hector Aranda. "We tagged about 400 in the first month and started with the things that everyone would like to have, like laptops."

Tagging all assets and employing fixed readers allowed the Centre to add Radiant RFID's asset movement notification. J Hector Aranda's team gets an email when an asset is removed, and the live inventory is updated to reflect the exit.

"This was our first Virtual Asset Tracker customer utilising both handheld and fixed readers with the notification module," said Matthew Padon. "This solution answers the question 'Where is that item?' in real time."

Result: visibility, security and potential expansion

Today, the team tags new assets as they arrive at the Centre, and they get an email whenever something leaves the ATACS Centre.

"Some items used to disappear, but not anymore," said J Hector Aranda. "With this type of RFID system, items have a way of staying in place."

The inventory data from Virtual Asset Tracker allows the Centre to better manage existing inventory and lower expenditures. It now takes just a half day to inventory a 20 page list of the facility's assets and the staff can print out custom reports including total inventory, missing items, and exceptions.

"The University is now interested in expanding this system," said J Hector Aranda. "They can see the example and the benefits."

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