



pss is an ISV (Independent Software Vendor) and solution provider to hardware manufacturers, consultants, resellers, and distributors.

pss is an AIDC ISV (Automatic Identification and Data Capture Independent Software Vendor) and a SaaS (Software as a Service) mobile processing provider.

Jeff Swan, owner of Pss an integrator of industry hardware and software

Project Summary

Company

City of Westminster

Market

Cleaning / Restoration

Location

Massachusetts



phone: **0490 039 278**
 internet: www.idtracon.com.au
 email: sales@idtracon.com.au

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

RFID controlling gate access at waste transfer stations

City of Westminster, Massachusetts uses RFID to manage gate access to waste transfer station

Opportunity: better access control to waste transfer station at lower cost

As federal and state environmental regulations have closed small landfills and recycling rates have climbed, waste transfer stations have become important to moving rubbish economically by consolidating loads before hauling to regional landfills and other facilities.

While this approach saves communities money on the labour and operating costs of transporting the waste to a distant disposal site, the Town of Westminster, Mass. wanted to further their efficiency by automating resident access to their transfer station.

The principal challenge for Westminster was confirming the identity and thus the municipal residency of individuals entering the station. Specifically controlling the expense of non resident access was important.

While Westminster knew they wanted to track usage and were interested in RFID technology, they were less certain about how to automate gate access and link gate activity to the Town's records. Westminster turned to Pss for help in reducing facility gate staff with an automated system. Pss, as an integrator of hardware and software for hospitality, retail, warehousing and other industries, had an application suite called MOBILeTY, which was a strong foundation for the job.

Solution: custom, RFID enabled gate control tied to existing municipal database MOBILeTY applications enable data collection and management in mobile environments. The configurable and easily interfaced products allowed Pss to develop a custom interface to control the gates, but the development of the whole solution which would become known as MOBILeACCESS.

Previous work in portable data collection gave Pss a solid understanding of RFID. They were able to move quickly on Westminster's requirements, but sourcing RFID tags was a bit more involved. In addition to some RFID tag sources Pss had in place, Westminster added **METALcraft** to the list of tag providers to consider. **METALcraft**, a provider of durable RFID labels offers standardised, passive RFID labels for vehicle windscreens.

"We had a 'tag-off'," said Pss owner Jeff Swann. "We set up a reader and a gate, and we gathered different tag technologies from a few providers to see what would work best for the 3 to 6 metres (12 to 20 foot) read range we were seeking."

Also, Pss expected Westminster to print tags as needed, but the Town saw a different approach using the flexibility of the MOBILeTY product and referencing existing Town data to grant access. The RFID labels would need serial data pre-programmed on the tag and readable on the surface. The Town would simply add a field to their database to accommodate the tag number.

"This was what put the tags from **METALcraft** over the top," said Jeff Swann. "**METALcraft's** RFID windscreen tag had the best performance and appearance and their pre-commissioned tags were really perfect for this environment."

With the decision made on RFID tags, Pss assembled the production components for installation of the electronic gate control, an RFID reader, and loop hardware for vehicle detection. They even added a red-yellow-green light array to give users feedback on their authentication at the gate.

Result: successful rollout and a repeatable solution for a market need

The Town rolled out the system in the spring, offering the RFID windscreen labels to residents on April 1, 2010.

The Town does not charge a fee for a label, but residents are required to present a valid driver's license and vehicle registration as well as a utility bill, tax number, or rental agreement. These strong controls affirm residency when acquiring the label to the public works or Town Hall office.

The gate opened to residents May 11, 2010 delivering what was promised an automated access control at lower cost, enabled by durable, attractive RFID labels on vehicle windscreens.

Today, Pss offers all of the required hardware and software as MOBILeACCESS as a complete access control solution for automotive environments. Parking garages, gated communities and other properties can leverage RFID efficiency using standard technologies for managing data.

"We've proven that waste transfer stations can lower cost and strengthen access control using RFID," said Jeff Swann. "As towns increasingly outsource to waste management contractors, we're ready to help these partners increase efficiency in Massachusetts and beyond."

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