RFID enables real time tracking of automotive auction inventory

Alli-Solutions deliver paperless, real time tracking of automotive inventory

Opportunity: track vehicles as they move through the auction lot

The automotive auction industry is a quiet giant. The National Auto Auction Association reported $83.1 billion in sales of used vehicles at its member auctions. The Association's average auction member operates a 74 acre facility and employs 141 people with a payroll of $3.1 million.

Automotive auction businesses typically deal with insurance and wholesale inventories, including damaged, salvage, and theft-recovered vehicles. The volume of inventory is time consuming.

Moreover, most auctions are done on consignment; the auction company is responsible for the inventory, especially damage. So, the auction company needs data to show the history of a vehicle while in their possession. Thorough, accurate vehicle condition reports support the strict fiduciary relationships and need to maximise auction dollars.

In response to these challenges, the industry has adopted many technologies to improve business processes by computerised inventories, online auctions and more.

Still, tracking inventories remains a challenge; the footprint of these operations and the thousands of vehicles they manage means quickly locating a specific vehicle is difficult.

"We wanted to know where vehicles are, where they've been and who moved them," said Barry Howard, president of Alli-Solutions. "And we needed a way to do that efficiently."

Solution: RFID windscreen tags and DogBone™ vehicle tracking system

Alli-Solutions created their DogBone™ Vehicle Tracking System to track, locate, and manage automotive storage events in large areas.

Their system tracks inventory locations and movements within a facility; identifies and locates any singular vehicle, or groups of vehicles; and readily interfaces with most existing inventory management systems.

DogBone was designed to be a low cost, packaged solution, including desktop and mobile software and the necessary RFID hardware.

Alli-Solutions identified "**METAL**craft had the best RFID label solutions for my application; I've been real impressed with them because they have the expertise to help me make correct decisions said Barry Howard."

Result: real-time tracking of vehicle inventory reduce labour & insurance costs

Immediately, auction companies were enjoying paperless, real time tracking of automotive inventory and the associated time and cost savings. For example, reducing labour cost in locating missing inventory is helping to counter insurance and related workforce expenses that continue to rise.

Also, the additional value of DogBone's management applications became apparent quickly as customers began real time tracking of related business assets like forklifts and utility vehicles.

"The DogBone tools show the utilisation and efficiency in a lot of business processes," said Barry Howard. "RFID allows us to collect and analyse data effortlessly; DogBone knows what a forklift costs to operate and whether you're getting the most out of it."

As the industry trends toward full service auction facilities, tracking vehicles, parts and equipment becomes especially important.

And Barry Howard is optimistic about the growth of DogBone outside of the automotive auction industry. He says the solution is well suited to OEMs and automotive recyclers, and large parking facilities like airports and malls.

"**METAL**craft's passive RFID tags help us lower the barrier to entry," said Barry Howard. "Durable, passive labels are important in our low cost solution."

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

DogBone™ Vehicle Tracking System

- Know where your inventories are located, real time. Put the inventory where you want, and let Dogbone™ manage the location.
- Reduce labor costs in locating missing inventories.
- Increase your labor efficiencies by allowing Dogbone™ to manage your vehicle locations.
- Organize and move your inventories more effectively and efficiently.

Alli-Solutions develop passive RFID inventory-tracking systems. The company's Dogbone RFID Inventory Tracking solutions are designed to locate and track vehicle inventory while managing the utilization of loading and transport equipment. Alli-Solutions' products, which do not require an expensive facilities retrofit, utilise low-cost identifiers to track inventory, and can communicate with a client's inventory-management system to provide a paperless management process, with historical movement of inventory through a facility, despatch tracking and high-definition images. This real-time location-tracking solution can be deployed in salvage and whole-car automotive auctions, rental car facilities, containerised shipping in ports or airports, airfreight and large construction and infrastructure projects.

Barry Howard, President of Alli-Solutions

Project Summary

Company
Alli-Solutions

Market
Automotive / Auctions

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