

Omni-ID Blog – Septembre 2013

Omni-ID and Nexess provide RFID solution to French turbine company CETAC

Rochester, NY and Sophia Antipolis, France (September 19, 2013) -- Omni-ID the original inventor of the on-metal tag and leading global supplier of high-performance, RFID tags and visual tagging systems today announced that it has partnered with the French RFID integrator Nexess to provide an asset tracking solution to CETAC (Centre d'Exploitation des Turbines à Combustion / Combustion Turbines Operating Center), an EDF subsidiary in France. CETAC provides the turbines (TAC - Turbines A Combustion / Combustion Turbines) used - to supplement electricity when the nuclear power plants don't produce enough energy to support the demand. CETAC is composed of 13 TAC, 6 production sites, and owns 8 spares stores.

This enterprise faces a huge challenge: when the demand increases an immediate need in electricity is known, and the operating center has to produce the energy quite instantly. Therefore, a real-time visibility of the turbine spares in inventory is essential in order to provide the location at any given time if operators need them. As Eric Tra-Bi (CETAC stocks manager) explains, "RFID technology is the best option in this case and that is why the company decided to implement it in 2 sites: Brennilis and Champagne-sur-Oise. The solution selected was NexCap Mobile Asset Tracking offered by Nexess, an RFID integrated solution composed of RFID tags (Prox NG by Omni-ID), PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants – Workabout Pro 3 by Psion) and a software platform (NexCap Software Solution by Nexess)."

Omni-ID's Prox NG tags were selected for this challenging application because of their environmental flexibility reliability and affordable cost. The Prox NG, characterized by its ability to work globally and both on and off-metal, along with its durability, and form factor provided for an easy installation, and represented the ideal RFID tag for this application.

"Easy to use, NexCap Mobile Asset Solution works with a PDA (Workabout Pro 3 by Psion) that allows the operators to write, stock and read information linked to products life cycles", says Claude Veau (CETAC Technical Manager). "In other words, the RFID solution facilitates inventories, preserves data accuracy, reduces manual interventions and provides a real-time follow-up of spares, consumables, tools and equipment subject to regulation. The RFID tags offer an efficient and autonomous stock moves tracking."

Lost turbine spares lead to downtimes and represent a huge cost for companies in this industry. The main goal for Nexess was to reduce the time wasted looking for spares and thus, decrease costs linked to these searches. NexCap Mobile Asset Tracking, that integrates Prox NG tags, has been able to provide the company with multiple efficiencies and a return on investment in the first year.

The next step of this project is to deploy the NexCap Mobile Asset Solution in all the CETAC sites, in order to provide a homogeneous system across the company.