

# POSDATA Shines in a Time Defined Project

*Experience and Open Communications are Vital Elements to Success*

## The Call to Action

A leading manufacturer of outdoor power products had an immediate need for the installation of warehouse WLAN infrastructure along with forklift computer terminals and printers.

Impending required software updates dictated the changes to their wireless infrastructure and vehicle mounted terminals, along with a critical implementation schedule. When POSDATA got the call, the project requirement called for a team that could acquire, deploy and implement the new equipment in a 4 week time period at 8 manufacturing plants and warehouses, in 3 different states.

Key requirements of the project included not only that it had to be completed within the specified timeframe, but also that the implementation could not affect the day to day operation of each plant and their plant managers could not be burdened with the background work of the project. In other words, they were looking for a company to come in, get all the new infrastructure and hardware operational and hand it over. And, like all companies, they wanted it done right!

## Feet on the Ground

Project execution was off and running once the contact was signed by both parties. The equipment was ordered and scheduled for delivery at the various locations within days. Compsee's Project Manager immediately dispatched project teams to each location. The teams were onsite 3 days from the signing of the contract.

The on-location teams consisted of a POSDATA Technical Engineer, along with a third party network cabling and Wi-Fi hardware installation crew. Back in the office, Compsee's Customer Service coordinated the ordering and delivery of the hardware, along with the myriad of paperwork that comes with a project of this nature.



## Steps to Completion

With the completion deadline hanging over their heads, the team followed the logical steps needed to ensure the ultimate success of the system.

### The WiFi Infrastructure and Cisco Access Points

At each location the POSDATA Technical Engineer conducted and documented a Site Survey, determining the location for each Access Point and its intended coverage. With facilities that covered over 500,000 square feet filled with metal bins, the task was time consuming, yet extremely critical, as it established the groundwork for the entire system.

Once completed, the engineer worked with the 3<sup>rd</sup> party wiring company to install the network cabling and the access points. The wiring company was required to provide certification of the wiring of the cable installation, while POSDATA conducted WiFi area coverage verification.

### Rugged Vehicle Mount Computers

The vehicle mount computer tablet chosen for the new system required a rugged structure and the versatility factors needed by the company and their users.

Receiving and inventorying in the units was just the beginning of the Vehicle Mount Computer deployment. The POSDATA engineer also needed to configure and set the numerous behavioral properties of the unit for forklift operation. Included in the configuration settings were:

- WiFi connections and Security selections
- 5250 Emulation program options
- Keypad and Touchscreen routines - encompassing ease of use by gloved drivers
- Auto Start procedures - Used by forklift drivers, plug and play was key
- Bluetooth settings for the bar code scanner

### Long Range Bar Code Scanners

The bar code scanner needed to be programmed for Bluetooth communications along with parameters set for the reading of the codes. Once paired to the terminal, functionality and communications were tested and documented.

### Stand-alone and Mobile Printers -

Two types of printers were put in play at each location. In a stand-alone mode, the printer was used to print receipt bin labels and eventually the shipping labels. Whereas, the portable printers were used on-demand for bin relabeling throughout the warehouse.



The setup of the printers required the POSDATA Engineer to program for both label printing and network configuration.

### Communications – The key to success

It took a coordinated effort of the team working relentlessly for weeks to complete the project. In the end, they accomplished the project objectives and turned over to the customer a comprehensive, fully tested system.

The parties involved, Project Manager, Customer Service, Purchasing and the Technical Team all credit the team spirit of working together to accomplish a common goal as a major element in the project's success.

The Plant Operations Managers at each location greatly appreciated the efforts of the team to work with them and schedule testing and installation around their daily operations. For example, the man-lifts, needed for wiring the warehouse, could only be used after hours. To maintain their daily operations using the lifts in the warehouse would have conflicted with the forklifts maneuvering around the facility.

Communications was a key element in meeting the project goals. Daily conference calls took place in the first weeks of the project and migrated to every three days and then to once a week. The calls between management and the onsite team's proved useful in resolving situations that occurred at any of the locations. The conference calls facilitated in keeping the project on target and gave all personnel involved a sense of ownership in the outcome of the project.

## Project Details

The full scope of the project called for POSDATA to be involved in all stages including acquiring the hardware and materials, managing their logistical challenges, staging, commissioning and testing.

The new system required the integration of a variety of hardware:

- 136 access points for the wireless network implementation
- 147 rugged forklift computers deployment
- 147 Bluetooth barcode scanners
- 15 Fixed Station Printers
- 74 Portable Printers

### Not our First Dance

Having been a leader in data collection systems since the early 80's, POSDATA has the experience and know-how to take a project from start to finish. Our project managers are well aware of the pitfalls that can occur as they skillfully navigate the team to a successful outcome.

Companies across the US have counted on the POSDATA team for years. They look to POSDATA for the guidance in selecting the latest technology advancements for their facilities and place their trust in the team to provide them with comprehensive services to deploy, support and maintain their operation

### About POSDATA

POSDATA is a mobility solutions specialist and leader in the application of automated data collection technologies. POSDATA offers mobile labor tracking, field data collection and asset management solutions. We focus on the design, integration and implementation of mobility and data collection systems from the most comprehensive line of hardware, software, supplies and services available from one source.



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