Nowadays, Radio Frequency IDentification (RFID) technology is making significant progress and is increasingly used for various applications. RFID offers numerous advantages but, obviously, sufficient attention needs to be paid within a company or team in order to make an RFID project successful.

Companies have to set clear goals for their RFID implementations, map out existing business processes, determine where data has to be collected and how this information will be used, and select the most suitable technology in order to reach the desired goals.

Read the step-by-step plan before starting an RFID project!
IN 10 STEPS TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL RFID IMPLEMENTATION

1. Appoint a project manager

One of the main issues when starting an RFID project is choosing a good team leader. This leader is responsible for the entire project, should be passionate about RFID technology, have a broad knowledge of the workflow and the company and have the necessary skills to pull the project forward. This person must not necessarily have technical knowledge but has to have close relations with the management and have a coordinating role within the company.

2. Establish a strong RFID team

For the implementation of RFID, it is necessary to have a broad team involving all departments concerned: supply chain, manufacturing, sales, maintenance, facility management, logistics etc. It is, in fact, important to receive input from the different departments and to have a good collaboration between these departments. In order to make a project successful, a varied team is needed with everyone making a contribution.

3. Train the entire team on RFID

Make sure that everyone is informed of the RFID project so that each team member is aware of how to handle RFID installations. Teach this team the RFID basics so that they can optimally work with the RFID systems. Furthermore, they also need to be conscious of the strengths and weaknesses of RFID. In this way, they will be able to easier see and report problems, or solve these problems themselves.

After this training, continuous attention on the subject is required. That is why a specific policy about how to handle RFID within the company is definitely useful.

4. Examine existing standards and regulations

Today, there are already numerous standards and regulations for RFID technology, which often vary by country or region and are imposed by different institutions and authorities. Among various other aspects, it is important to know which frequency and how many power should be used. External advise on these issues may be advisable.

5. Set clear goals

The RFID integration needs to correspond to the business strategy. That is why it is essential to evaluate the expectations of your company. Be critical towards everything you read about the technology, because some sources of information can be incorrect or misleading. Understand the possibilities offered by the technology and align the company’s ideas and plans to them.
6 Map out your process flow

Make a clear overview of the workflow from start to finish:
- Where receive goods?
- Where and how put aside goods?
- How are they picked?
- Which internal process flows are there?
- Where are they stored?
- How are they shipped?
- Which software layers are there and have to be linked?

All this is necessary to obtain a clear view of the logistic flow and of the locations on which RFID technology has to be implemented. Also be aware that an RFID installation often implies process adaptations and sometimes even logistic adaptations; of course with the aim to gain benefit from them.

7 Select the most appropriate technology and hardware

For each RFID project, a specific technology has to be chosen. For localisation at greater distances, active RFID tags are used. For smaller objects in warehouses passive RFID technology is used. Furthermore, it is of course very important to choose the most suitable tags, readers and antennas.

RFID tags are available in many different forms, sizes, models and applications. As the RFID tag is usually the basis of a successful project, it is extremely important to pay sufficient attention to this and to make the right choice. In some cases, it is recommended to perform reference tests in an anechoic chamber.

8 Calculate the costs and the ROI of the RFID project

Before executing a significant RFID implementation, a company needs to estimate the project costs. This does not only help to plan the financing of the implementation, but it also gives an insight in the potential return on investment that can be achieved by implementing RFID technology.

9 Start with a pilot project

What are the major difficulties and what are the most important issues to be tackled first? By dealing with one problem at a time, RFID technology will immediately have an impact. Always keep in mind the needs of other projects, so that disinvestments are avoided.

At the beginning of the implementation of an RFID project, a pilot project is set up. This is a small-scale project involving only a part of the company. It will be necessary to create a better transition from the old systems to the new ones. In this way, the investment remains more limited and the company gets acquainted with the technology.

Moreover, it is recommended to involve an experienced system integrator in the pilot project in order to guarantee a correct approach.

10 Expand the project to different departments

When the pilot project is launched and there is a positive experience within the team and the company, further implementation of RFID within the company can be considered.

Once an RFID project is started and an RFID installation is present, numerous extensions are possible. Often, a large number of objects will already be equipped with RFID tags and software will be available. So the cost related to extensions will usually be lower than at the start of a project.
RFID (Radio Frequency IDentification) enables you to keep the overview at any time. By means of technology which uses radio signals, you can identify and localise persons or objects from a distance. Super-fast and without optical scanning.

As an independent RFID integrator, we define, develop and integrate the most suitable RFID solution for your automation project.

**RFID APPLICATIONS**

- **Asset Management**
  Automation of the registration, calculation and inventory of your assets.

- **Tracking & tracing**
  Know the exact location of your personnel, assets or products at any time.

- **Realtime location**
  Follow the movements of your goods or rolling stock in real time on the map.

- **Condition monitoring**
  Know the state of your tagged items at any time.

**RFID REFERENCES**

Contact us for an exploratory discussion without engagement!

**OUR TECHNOLOGY YOUR FUTURE**

Aucxis cvba
Zavelstraat 40
9190 Stekene
Belgium
T: +32 3 790 17 17
F: +32 3 790 17 18
info@aucxis.com
www.aucxis.com