

Case Study

Maximised tool availability

A large wind turbine manufacturer maximises high value tool availability with automated tracking and allocation to specialists, enabled by battery-free RFID labels and a fixed and portable RFID reader from Brady.



Case Study Overview



Challenge

Efficiently track high value tools



Solution

Integrated readers and battery-free RFID labels



Result

Maximum tool availability, minimum administration



Challenge

Increase tool tracking efficiency

A worldwide wind turbine manufacturer wanted to track high value tools more efficiently. A larger pool of specialists, working in 24/7 shifts, and increasing numbers of pneumatic drills, advanced cutters and other high value tools, had made the company's legacy tracking system inefficient at sites around the world.

To avoid long searches for tools in large facilities, and to always have high value tools available when needed, the manufacturer contacted Brady for an advanced tracking and identification solution.

Why Brady?

Brady offers solutions that deliver in the workplace. Just like our labels, we stick with our customers to solve real issues using reliable solutions that identify people, products and premises.

www.bradyeurope.com

Solution

Integrated RFID readers and RFID labels

Brady proposed an automated tool tracking solution with battery-free RFID labels and RFID readers, complete with software integration. The solution automatically registers tool allocation to employees, and enables homing in on labelled tools.

On- and off-metal RFID labels

To identify each type of high value tool in scope, Brady selected on- and off-metal battery-free RFID labels from its extensive label portfolio. The on-metal RFID label is an ideal choice to identify steel surfaces. With its powerful antenna and specialised label design, it can receive RFID signals without interference.

Both label types bounce back signals from Brady's RFID readers. They do not require a battery, nor maintenance, when applied to hundreds of tools.

Brady also provided the wind turbine manufacturer with on-site label print and program capabilities to easily identify new tools.

Fixed and portable RFID readers

A fixed RFID reader at the tool storage area automatically registers people ID badges and RFID labels applied on tools. The reader's software auto-allocates high value tools to specialist employees and removes all administration related to booking tools in and out. The RFID reader also automates tool inventories by enabling real-time visibility on every labelled tool in storage.

In addition, Brady supplied a portable RFID reader that can see labelled tools within a 15 metre radius. Users can select a specific tool on-screen and home in on that tool with sound and visuals.

Software integration

To solve tool visibility challenges, Brady customised its RFID software. The custom solution's web interface can display a usage history of each tool, maintenance reports, missing assets, a comparison with similar tools and users with current allocated tools. The software also enables the creation of assets, combined with RFID label printing and programming.

To complete the solution, Brady integrated custom RFID reader software with the wind turbine manufacturer's ERP-software.

Results

Maximised tool availability

The wind turbine manufacturer now automatically allocates tools to the right employees without further administration. Tool availability increased significantly because of accurate, automated data that simplify tool retrieval and data-driven tool purchases. The storage area tool inventory can be viewed real-time in a couple of clicks, including any missing items, complete with information on current users. During maintenance, usage histories and previous repairs can be accessed directly, just by reading the tool's RFID label.

Every asset a unique digital identity

With our complete RFID solution, assets in any industrial environment can be given unique digital identities just by applying a label. Users will be able to identify and locate labelled assets all at once, from a distance, in real time, without needing line of sight.