



Turning a Corner with Technology: Sierra Marine Charts New Course with CipherLab Scanners

For nearly 40 years Sierra Marine, based outside Chicago, has been the leading manufacturer and supplier of marine engine and drive parts. As an engine parts aftermarket division of SeaStar Solutions, the company offers more than 6,000 products in the U.S. as well as Europe through its distribution center in Holland.

As the company expanded its warehouse, workers' old handheld scanners, which had short wireless range, could no longer keep up with demand. Real-time inventory control was suffering as workers shuttled back and forth between computerized scanners and manual data entry.

The company worked with an outside consulting firm, eComputer, to develop a solution. By switching to a new cordless 1166 Bluetooth® scanner from Taiwan-based CipherLab, Sierra Marine workers were able to more quickly and reliably scan barcodes for inventory. Even if workers were beyond wireless range the new technology acquired up to 256 data scans to be automatically uploaded when back within coverage.

The scanner's open-source architecture paired with in-house software at Sierra Marine not only enables workers to save time by instantaneously managing inventory but it also saves the firm money by minimizing over- or under-stocking.

Sources:

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