Contract Number 235542

RACE networkRFID

FP7 Thematic Network
ICT-PSP: a European concerted effort on RFID

D7.2 – Quarterly Electronic Newsletter #3

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PU	Public	**PU**
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

December 2009

RACE networkRFID
Raising Awareness and Competitiveness in Europe

Commission européenne
Société de l'information et médias

Developing a New Web Site

Help us find SME Organisations

We are looking to develop a complete database of SME organisations in Europe. Can you help by supplying a list from your country? All we need is a contact name; organisation name; address, phone, fax, email and also website address. We would like to send all these organisations an invitation to join our network as part of our dissemination plan.
Please reply to
ian@aimuk.org.

All the identified organisations will receive copies of newsletters and regular project updates.

Member Recruitment

We are about to begin a major membership recruitment programme.

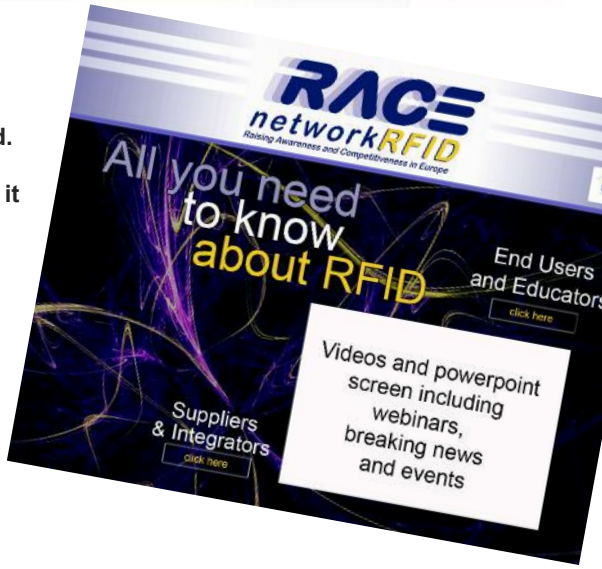
Our target is to reach 100 members by March 2010.

Who do you know in your country who we should invite to join? Remember it is free for companies involved in RFID. Are there some companies you would like to personally invite? All they have to do is complete an application form which can be downloaded from the website. If they applied now they could be a member within days.

Alternatively if you send names and addresses of prospects to the project co-ordinator **philippe.rohou@ercim.org** he will forward the relevant paperwork for completion. This is an area in which every member can help and we look forward to receiving many applications over the coming weeks.

Those of you attending our General Assembly in London saw an outline presentation of the new RACE website which had been designed by Ian Smith, Chair of the Management Board. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for the site and it was agreed we should seek to have it up and running at the earliest opportunity.

All members of RACE networkRFID have been given the opportunity to develop and maintain the site. The General Assembly agreed a budget of €6,000 to cover total development costs and a further €6,000 for each of the three years of the project for regular maintenance and updating. It is expected the Management Board will announce the website co-ordinator following their face to face meetings in Brussels later this month.



WORK PACKAGE 2

"SUMMARY REPORT RFID MARKET ANALYSIS"

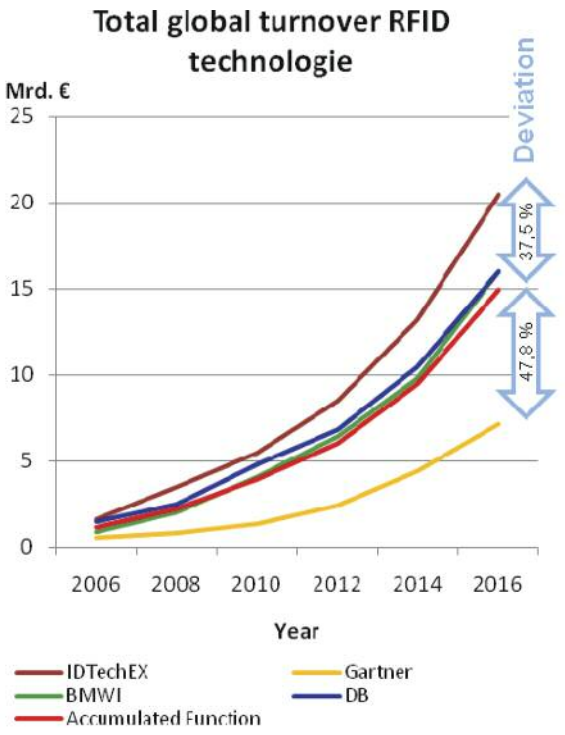
Niko Hossain

An RFID Market Analysis Summary Report has been prepared by the members of *Work Package 2 – Technology Roadmap and Market Analysis*. The report summarizes information from 20 published reports. Fifteen members of RACE have been involved in its compilation.

Here are some of the key points

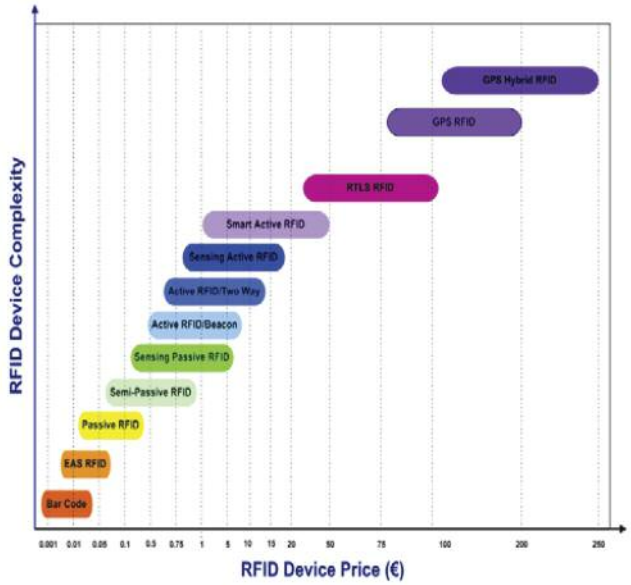
1 Introduction

This report aims to roll out a market analysis for the near future and clarify the context of the current state of the art regarding technology and market conditions. The market analysis is the result of research and interpretation of expert reports.
A comparison of several forecasts done by renowned institutes provides a general and objective global growth forecast.



2 Total Global Turnover

The global RFID market development is positive and beneficial at all. Several forecasts and case studies anticipate a rapid increase of the turnover with RFID products in the next years. In comparison with other IT products the current turnover of RFID products is relatively low, the mobile phone sector for example has got a global turnover of approximately 600 Mrd. € in 2009. RFID products just achieve approximately 3.5 Mrd €, but the forecasts from IDTechEx, Deutsche Bank Research, Gartner Inc. Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technik Seite promise an above average growth. In order to give a real statement, we compared independent market forecasts with each other and developed an average turnover function.
This approach function has the same run of the curve as the other forecasts. The shape of all those curves runs exponential with a yearly growth rate of 19% to 25 %. We would expect that the turnover raise up from an amount of 3.5 Mrd. € in 2009 to 15.5 Mrd. € by 2016.

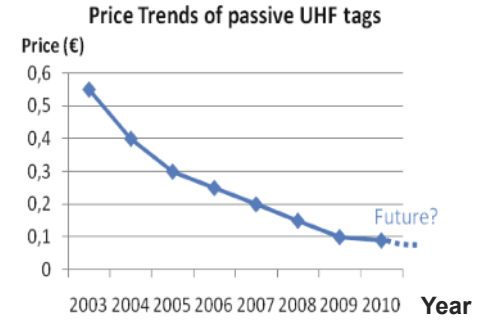


3 Price and Trend of RFID tags

The price of RFID devices depends on the frequency and the complexity. Furthermore the cost for barcode labeling is lower than labeling with RFID tags and understandably active RFID devices are more expensive than passive ones. The diagram gives a basic overview about the prices of the different RFID devices.

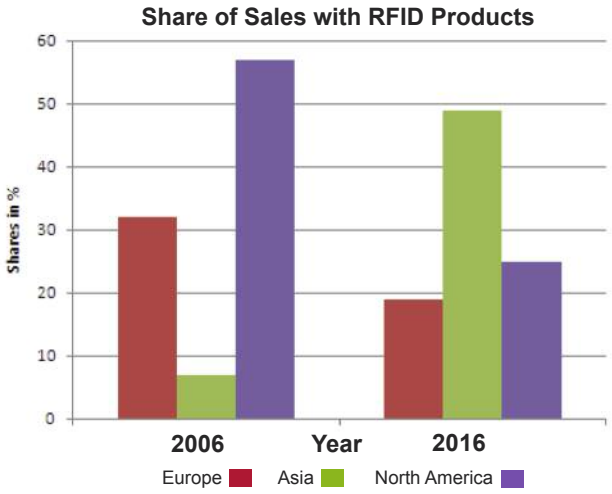
The price development of RFID tags is very promising and positive. At a very high purchase quantity it was possible to reach an average price of 60 cent (€) per basic structured UHF tag in 2003. Nowadays the average prices are considerably lower and those tags are priced at approximately 10 cent per piece.

However, the price per RFID tag could fall further, if the tags can be produced out of polymers. But these so-called plastic tags are unfortunately not marketable and still in development.



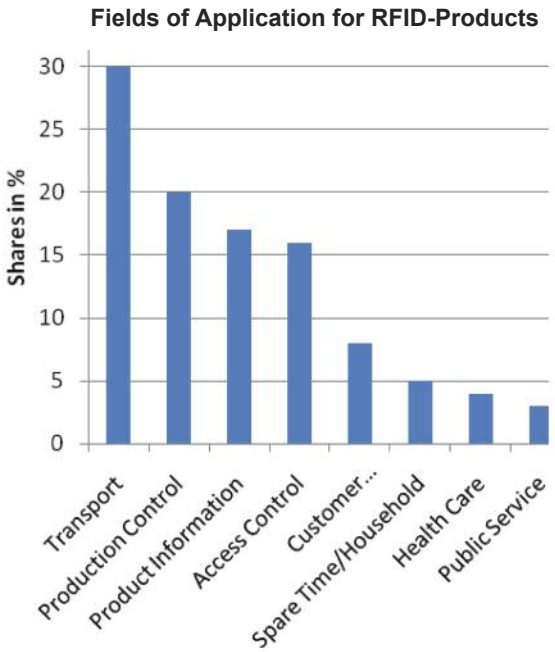
4 Global Market Shares

Today Europe is one of the leading countries in RFID technology. Furthermore, Europe must take attention to keep up with the competitors, especially Asia, in the next years. Indeed, the turnover of Europe and North America will increase further but Asia will experience a high growth of the turnover and will take over the leading position until 2016.
Asia will increase their share of sales very fast until 2016. In 2006 the share of sales is 7% for Asia, 32%for Europe and 57% for North America. These values will change to 49 % for Asia, 19% for Europe and 25% for North America. This figure shows that Asia will dominate the RFID market in the next years.



5 Fields of applications

Today RFID technology can be used in many cases. The main usage is in transport and production Moreover, RFID-Tags can be combined with other technology (e.g. GPS, GSM) in order to guarantee a perfect locating for e.g. goods all over the world.
In the next years ticketing, library, pharmacy (marking of medicaments) and protection of plagiarism will see the most growth of RFIDProducts.



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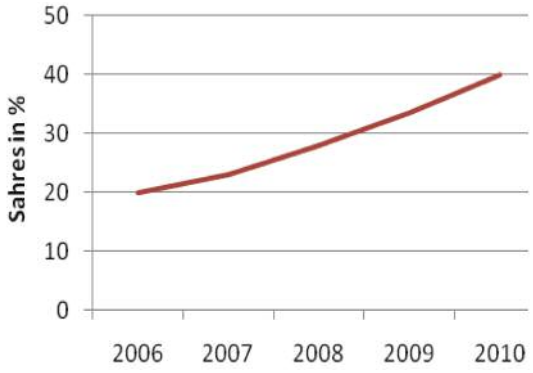

The demand for the usage of RFID-Products in companies will increase further in the next years. The number of companies which use RFID will double and rise from 20% in 2006 to 40% in 2010. However, many companies want to introduce RFIDProducts. But due to the fact of a lack of knowledge about the RFID technology and high investment costs, in times of depression understandable, many companies are afraid to introduce this technology. to introduce this technology.

7 Privacy and Data Protection

The Commission of the European Communities wants to make sure, that privacy and data protection principles are implemented in applications supported by radio-frequency identification. Data protection is a very important issue when the data belongs to a certain person or contains personnel data, but in industry or enterprise processes tags save mostly almost exclusive a number and no personal information. Partners of RACE expressed the view, that the EU recommendation might complicate the implementation of RFID technology for companies and the whole RFID market in terms of administration.

All you need to know about RFID

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RACE networkRFID — Raising Awareness and Competitiveness in Europe — ICT PSP

Work Packages

1 - Business Monitoring
2 - Technology Roadmap
3 - Applications
4 - Harmonisations
5 - Public Awareness
6 - SME Awareness
7 - Dissemination
8 - Project Management

Our Vision . . .

"To provide a RFID network of excellence that creates opportunities and increases the competitiveness of European Member States in the area of RFID through innovation, development and implementation. At the same time it will position RFID technology within the mainstream of information and communications technology."

The network draws upon the expertise of Member States and the evolving RFID community to create a dynamic, change-responsive capability that not only aligns with the initial Information and Communications Technologies Support Programme objectives, but extends that capability to accommodate emergent and future needs. RACE networkRFID will meet the pressing need to generate greater awareness and uptake and the exploitation of user-facing opportunities for innovation and enterprise. It will capitalise on work done by European projects and national initiatives to confirm Europe's position as a leading force in RFID.

WP1: Business Monitoring

Marisa Jimenez,
Work Package Leader

RACE NetworkRFID will analyse the potential benefits of RFID for Food Traceability

The main objective of the RACE Work Package 1 "Business monitoring, policy liaison, and collaboration" is to monitor and encourage collaboration in diverse industry sectors to identify where and to what extent RFID technology based applications can offer solutions to improve processes and at the same time meet high ranking policy objectives. The first sector we decided to focus on is food safety and food traceability.

The presentation of Paul Kidd from Cheshire Henbury at the RACE General Assembly in London last October clearly highlighted that food safety and food traceability are policy objectives that urgently need our attention and where RFID could be a potential solution. In the course of the project, our aim is to show that the RFID technology could be one of the tools to tackle these emerging issues. In the areas of cold chain continuity, quality prediction (for instance to prevent the development of toxins that can lead to food contamination), authentication of products and detection of counterfeits, RFID could be an efficient way to improve the traceability of the food supply chain. The technology could also enable producers to give more information to their partners and to the consumers on a product's history, such as its ingredients, or the use of chemical or flavouring. Our work will in particular reflect the issues raised in the Welcome Package Food Safety issued in June 2009 by the Directorate General for Internal Policies, available http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/envi/dv/foodsafety_welcome_package_/foodsafety_welcome_package_en.pdf

In order to provide a complete analysis of the situation and of the potential of the technology, we are calling the RACE partners and other stakeholders for interesting business cases, best practices or guidelines on food traceability and food safety. As an example, GS1 has developed Implementation guidelines for fresh fruits and vegetables that can be downloaded in the traceability section of the GS1 website http://www.gs1.org/traceability/support/ , presenting best practices for this industry. Please contact WP1 at Emilie.Danel@gs1.org to send us your feedback and resources.

WP3: Applications and Project Deployment

Laurent Gonzalez,
Work Package Leader

The database of Work Package3 "Applications and project deployment" is under construction after validation of the technical specifications and the nature of data collected by the WP3 members. This database will allow companies to share with the network their RFID project and "know how" on the technology. The database will also give the general public a tool to access RFID case studies in Europe and the possibility to sort them by country, application, industry sector, data collected, improvement… This tool will be accessible to anyone through the RACE networkRFID project website.

In order to evaluate the number of RFID applications and projects that the database could host, FILRFID (the work package leader) will launch with CNRFID (the French national RFID competence centre) a nationwide call to collect RFID projects and applications in France in a Traceability event in Paris. This call will be extended to the partners of the project in the other European countries.

We invite your collaboration in forwarding this information to anyone who would be interested in sharing their RFID application or project studies with us. If you already have companies that are interested, please contact us.

WP 4: Harmonization of standardization related activities

Patrick Guillemin,
Work Package Leader

It has been a busy period for ETSI the work package leaders, and members of their team;

CERP-IoT, GRIFS and CASAGRAS

- ETSI monitored, attended and participated in the ITU-T JCA-NID activities and meetings in Geneva.
- ETSI participated together with EC DG INFSO, GS1 and CEN in the "Work Shop - Standardising the IoT" in Brussels.
- ETSI supported EC DG INFSO in their EU-China dialogue on RFID and IoT
- ETSI participated in CERP-IoT (Coordination, Scoping from RFID to IoT, Book, Collaboration with FInES cluster, EPoSS, FIA/RWI) , CASAGRAS, RACE network RFID, EC Mandate M/436,GRIFS

Contributed to CASAGRAS Final conference and report providing a presentation on the important subject of Internet of Things (IoT) Governance as mentioned in the CASAGRAS Final Report available at http://www.rfidglobal.eu/userfiles/documents/FinalReport.pdf

RACE networkRFID

ETSI presented their early RFID Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) work to the European Commission Recommendation Work Group. ETSI reviewed and commented on PIA Framework proposals from other organizations. Additionally ETSI assisted the coordination of RFID Emblems/Logos/Signs with respect to WP5, including outlining ETSI's potential to "carry-the-baton" in developing supporting European standards after WP5 has completed their deliverables. Contributed to the development of WP5 deliverables

US/EU Lighthouse Project

Support with this initiative is currently being clarified in discussions with the European Commission and RACE networkRFID Work Package leaders of WP1 and 4

Defining Common Terminology

New contributions have been received by work package members and consolidated into new tabular presentation format. We are now looking for wider participation to define layout, and governance, and to receive additional contributions

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WP5: Public Awareness

Simon Japs,
Work Package Leader

WP5 is continuing its work on the requirements for a harmonised RFID sign. The results of WP5 workshop were presented by Dr. Andrea Huber at the Informal Working Group meeting in Brussels on October 12th. The outcome of this discussion was the basis for the 2nd conference call of WP5. On October 26th the members discussed a more detailed list of requirements and other matters arising. It has to be clarified if it will be possible to test one or more signs with consumers in projects such as SMART or via an online panel. Another option which has to be considered is the possibility of assigning art directors to create a sign by using the developed requirements. The Work Package plans to release a detailed list of requirements by March 2010

WP6: SME Awareness

Octavio Lopes,
Work Package Leader

The primary objective of the "SME Awareness" work package is to first of all establish the SME End User needs; to introduce appropriate business assist and development initiatives, which will be supported by accredited advisors.
It is critical to address the barriers to adoption. We are fortunate that one of the partners in the RACE project is UEAPME, the European Federation for SMEs and we will seek to work directly with them and their 78 national associations, along with other interested European organisations to establish the answers. Our target is to promote product, process and service innovation opportunities to the entire SME community. In particular, we will;

- **Identify the most relevant SME organisations by state and by activity sector (industry associations, guilds and institutes etc)**
- **Establish SME End User needs**
- **Examine existing business assist and development initiatives**
- **Address the SME barriers to adoption**

Work Package 6 will work closely with WP5 and WP7 to establish the existing platform of service support, which is available from the contracted and associate members of RACE RFID Forum and recommend appropriate adoption by Member States. This should establish early momentum across the 27 Member States and enable dialogue country by country, to determine specific implementation needs.

Members - WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! DON'T BE SHY – *CONTRIBUTE*

Ian G. Smith,
Work Package Leader

Dissemination Work Package leader and Management Board Chairman, Ian Smith called on all members of RACE networkRFID to make a contribution to the development of the project at last month's General Assembly meeting in London.

Progress during the first six months of the project had been slower than expected – but work package leaders had "now found their feet" and they and their teams were looking to make significant progress between now and the next General Assembly meeting.

To be successful we needed input from every single member. He presented the concept for the new RACE website. The site will have an entry point for end users and educators, and another entry point for suppliers and integrators. The concept was enthusiastically received. But.... said Mr. Smith. " We need content! Non commercial RFID video material for the home page; educational powerpoint presentations; webinars – existing or suggestions of topics to be developed; breaking news and a full events calendar. This needs input from everyone," he added.

We wanted to develop a comprehensive feature on applications and case studies. We need the material. We want stories demonstrating the benefits and the return on investment.

We need members to share their RFID successes. What had they done? How had they measured success.

Our brief was to waken up the 27 Member States to the benefits that RFID could offer in improving efficiency and productivity. What projects had members undertaken that could be shared across the community. A 5-minute RFID diagnostic had been developed which was one example. ***To maximise our success we needed more innovative ideas.***

We needed to launch a major membership recruiting campaign. We would be as successful as members would allow. Every member in every country would know their RFID partners and competitors in that country. We need to get these companies on Board and ***GROW THE MARKETPLACE***.

UEAPME the European Federation for Small Medium Enterprises were taking a major lead. They would encourage all their 83 partner organisations to promote the work of RACE. Many would carry the 5-minute diagnostic. Many would join the network. In addition UEAPME would host a meeting in Brussels in February 2010 of users and non users of RFID. The meeting will seek to establish the positive outcomes and benefits of users and the concerns of non-users.
We need members of RACE to promote SME attendance to this meeting.

Over the coming weeks we will list our national contacts. These will be the partners who will help promote the RACE networkRFID messages to media, potential users and Government agencies across all 27 Member States.

They will also help with essential translation into local languages as required.

RACE will disseminate its activities to academic institutions across Europe with appropriate support materials outlining how these institutions could and should benefit from participation. We will also examine the possibilities of establishing RFID academies.

The Management Board were aware that there was little financial support for such an important project – but the EU had supported the concept of RACE generating additional income by organising our own funded activities. These would be urgently examined by the Management Board and ideas presented to the next General Assembly. Whilst no one liked to work for nothing by collaboration we could grow the marketplace for RFID and benefit accordingly.

The dissemination plan was also presented to our EU Project Officer. It was enthusiastically received by him and by the General Assembly.

The challenge now is *TO DELIVER!* That is why we need your help.

All you need to know about RFID

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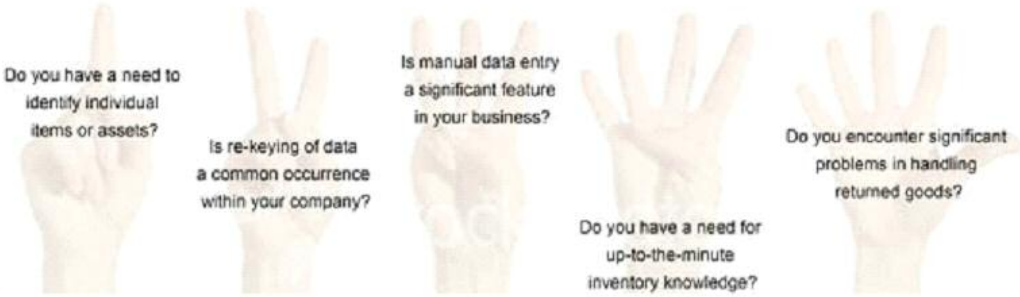
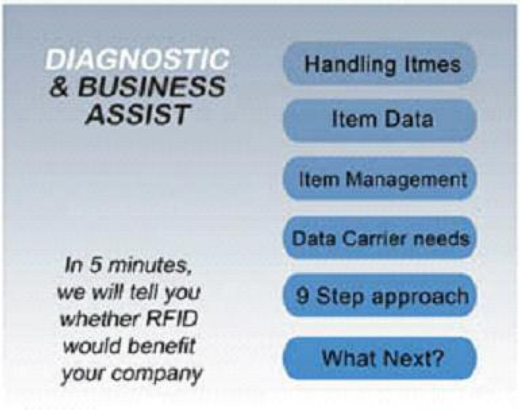
RACE networkRFID





The Five Minute Diagnostic

If you are new to radiofrequency identification (RFID) you may be wondering how it might have relevance to your own business. This being so the following questions may assist you in seeing both the relevance and the opportunities it can provide. The questions are structured to stimulate thought about processes, products and activities that could well . . .

. . . benefit from the use of rfid

It is expected that our five minute RFID diagnostic can become a powerful educational tool for SMEs across all 27 Member States.

The diagnostic is split into 12 sectors, each with 5 questions. Two of the sectors are illiustrated here. The more ticks given by the SME, the more likely the SME business needs RFID.

We are now looking for volunteers to translate the diagnostic across all European languages and will then be in a position to feature it on National SME organisation websites and others as appropriate.

A. Identification of Items

RFID is about identifying and managing items, particularly where the value of the item is high in comparison with the cost of the data carrier or tag that is used to identify the item. Where the above needs are encountered, either within or external to an organisation, it makes sense to consider RFID or other automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) data carriers and how they be applied effectively to satisfy such requirements.

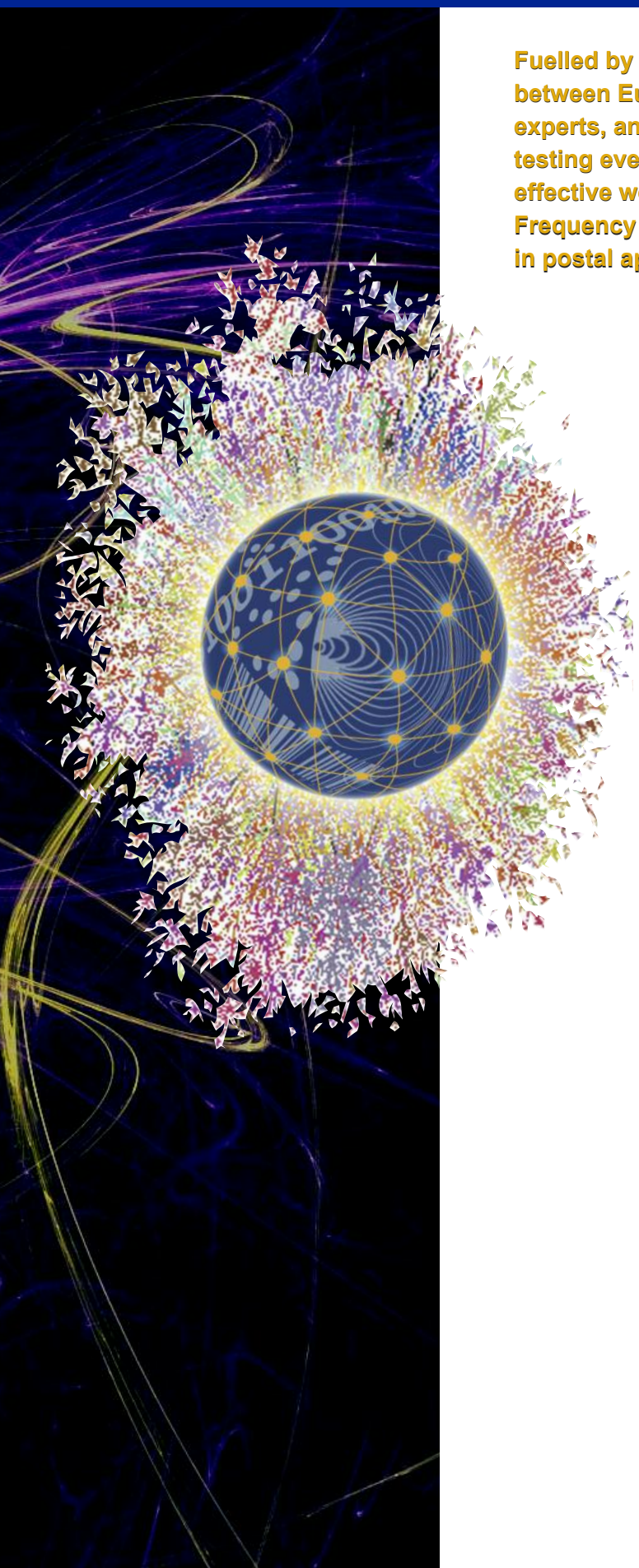
		Yes
1.	Do you have a need to identify individual items or assets?	☐
2.	Do you have a need to identify containers, pallets or other physical carriers of items?	☐
3.	Do you encounter problems in managing items that could be aided by an identification system?	☐
4.	Do you have an internal identification system that is difficult to handle or constrained by manual data handling processes?	☐
5.	Do you have a need for item traceability that could be aided by an identification system?	☐

B. Management of Item Information

Giving thought to such questions can often reveal inadequacies concerning information management of items than was hitherto unrecognised. Problems of the sort referred to above may well respond to solutions using RFID or other AIDC technologies.

		Yes
1	Do you have problems in defining and handling item-based information?	☐
2.	Is re-keying of data a common occurrence within your company?	☐
3.	Do you encounter difficulties in tracking items and process information?	☐
4.	Do you encounter customer problems because of errors in information?	☐
5.	Do you encounter customer problems because of delays in responding to customer requests?	☐

Testing event helps China and Europe take Olympic stride towards interoperable RFID solutions



Fuelled by a new spirit of co-operation between European and Chinese technology experts, an ETSI Plugtests™ interoperability testing event has helped to ensure the effective world-wide application of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in postal applications.

Co-organized by the China Electrical Standards Institute (CESI) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the first-ever interoperability event for RFID to be held in China took place in Beijing earlier this year. The 5-day event was hosted by the China Postal Science and Planning Academy (CPST) and was supported by ETSI's RFID Task Group, the RFID Standards Group China and the Chinese National Registration of IC Cards.

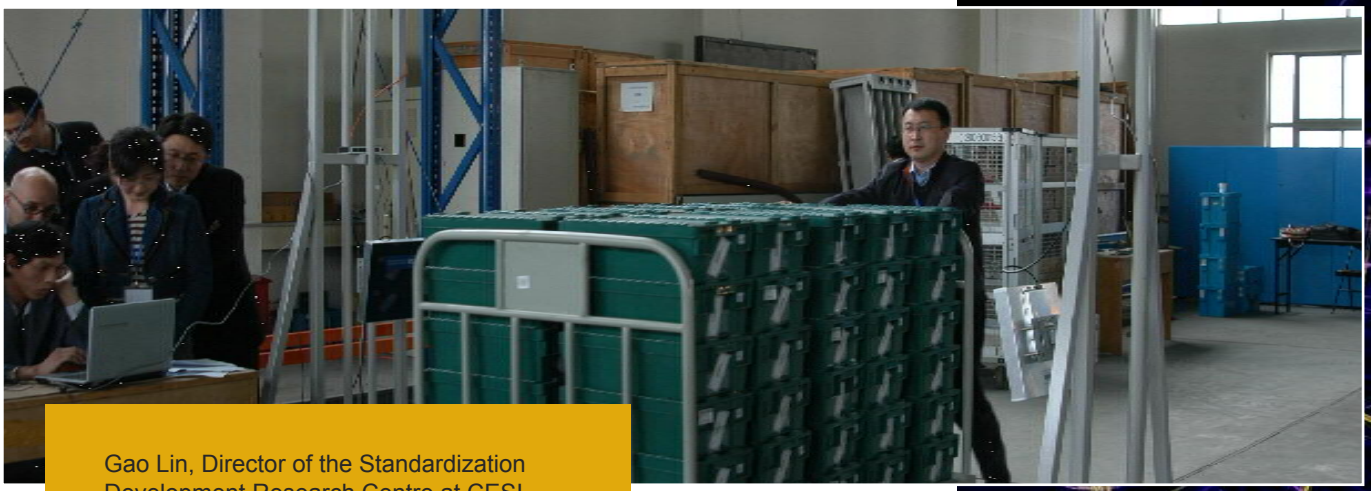
Engineers from all over the world gathered together to test the interoperability and performance of RFID as applied to postal applications. A range of real-life scenarios tested the application of RFID devices from multiple vendors conforming to two major international Ultra High Frequency (UHF) RFID standards and demonstrated the interoperability of devices made to those standards. A world first, as one of these RFID standards is new and devices based upon it have never been publicly tested in this way before.

RFID must operate globally since it is frequently used with objects that move worldwide, such as postal items. It is therefore essential that equipment manufactured by different RFID vendors is interoperable.

Typical applications demonstrate different properties such as field characteristics, tag population, speed and reader density. These properties impose various requirements such as read or write sensitivity and resistance to mutual coupling. Exposing tags of different types from different vendors to interrogators supplied by a range of manufacturers in application-specific conditions determine if there are any combinations that are incompatible.

The focus of this Plugtests™ event was to ensure a satisfactory level of interoperability between equipment supplied by different vendors, but conforming to the same standard, and also the co-operability of devices complying with the different UHF RFID standards, all operating under Chinese Radio Regulations. The event drew 37 participants from 14 companies. Support was provided by specialists in the field of RFID and by ETSI testing experts.

The postal application scenarios centred upon using RFID to identify reusable plastic mail cases, mail carts and mail bags. The true-to-life test scenarios used were challenging because of the quantity and speed of tags to be read. The test results provided vital information for end-users who wish to use RFID on a global basis and point to a potential for early adoption of non battery-powered UHF tags and reader devices for such scenarios.



Gao Lin, Director of the Standardization Development Research Centre at CESI, spoke of his satisfaction of this event: 'This interoperability test event has helped to evaluate the Chinese, European and international standards, and has clarified to both government and users the state of the art of the RFID industry's development progress. The event has definitely increased confidence in adopting RFID products.' He continued: 'As a Standards Development Organization, CESI has identified new requirements for developing standards and this testing event has also provided us with valuable guidance about how both product standards and test standards can best serve us in our tasks.'

Anthony Wiles, Director of the ETSI Centre for Testing and Interoperability said "This event was an excellent example of European and Chinese co-operation. We faced many technical and organizational challenges along the way but the results and lessons learned have been well-worth the effort".

The RFID Plugtest report describing the test methods and results is freely available at:

http://www.etsi.org/WebSite/document/PlugtestsHistory/2009RFID/sr_002787v010101p.pdf

Earlier, a new commercial agreement was signed between ETSI and the China Academy of Telecommunication Research (CATR). This 100% Chinese funded project – provisionally titled GO4IT China – will benefit from ETSI experience in testing technologies in order to ensure global interoperability of evolving communications networks that will serve both fixed and mobile communications and broadcast systems.

The *Golden Tag Award* and the Mini-Tag Award

Now is the time to enter your applications for The Gold Tag Award 2010, which is open exclusively to companies within the European Union. It is awarded every year to the buyer of RFID applications and services that have achieved the most success during the past year and have recouped the fastest possible ROI.

The Mini Tag goes to the Consultant/Supplier delivering the winning solution. The goal is to show the epoch-making RFID solutions in a positive light by creating the Gold- and Mini-Tags. There is no entrance-fee and deadline for entry is December 24, 2009.
For more information contact: **ove.canemyr@trendsetter.se**

RFID Nordik Scholarship Prize

Björn Kvarnström from Luleå Universtity of Technology has won
The RFID NORDIC Scholarship 2009

The Prize (20 000 SEK) was handed over at the Technical Fair in Stockholm at the RFID EXPO by the Chairman of the jury Olle Hydbom from RFID-Expert.

The citation read:

"Björn Kvarnström, Ph.D. student at the Luleå Technical University, has managed to show in theory as well as in real life, that RFID technology may be used to create virtual batch labels (using standard tags in a special casing) for continuous production processes of iron ore pellets. These virtual batch labels are primarily used for batch traceability, which significantly increases the possibility to control the production process and thereby obtaining potentially very large cost reductions.

He has furthermore managed to do this with COTS RFID system components in an environment that until now has been viewed as extremely hostile to RFID due to high physical pressures, high temperatures and the very high iron content in the labeled ore pellets flow."

Welcome our new Members...

We have launched a major membership recruitment campaign and we are targeting 100 members by the end of March 2010 and 200 by the end of December 2010. Any and all companies across Europe who are involved in RFID should join our network. In this issue, we extend a warm welcome to the following companies who have joined us:

Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits
AIM-D e.V. Germany, Austria, Switzerland
CLECAT – European Association for Forwarding, Transport, Logistic and Custom Services
K.U. Leuven Association
National AIDC Centre for Wales
Cheshire Henbury
METRO Group
BITKOM e.V.
Intel GmbH (Germany)
Trinity Systems (Greece)
Not Innovated Here (Finland)

Germany focuses on Internet of Things...

In March the European Commission released its communication on the Internet of Things. As in many other countries the topic is very strongly discussed in Germany. A few years ago the renowned Fraunhofer Society declared it to be one of its key work areas. Different workshops and releases followed. In May the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology released a report on the Internet of Things, which is now also available in English. It is a guide to technical, organisational, legal and safety-related aspects of implementing new RFID-supported processes in industry and government. On a less technical level, Informationsforum RFID recently published a brochure on key issues regarding the Internet of Things. The 20 page document provides basic knowledge of the technology and covers the main aspects of the beginning policy debate (only available in German).

http://www.bmwi.de/English/Navigation/Service/publications, did=319558.html
http://www.info-rfid.de/content/e624/Publikationen/Basiswissen_IOT.pdf

RFID and its Policy Impacts: Request for Information...

At the October General Assembly meeting held in London, the idea of preparing policy papers was discussed. These would consider such matters as the impact of RFID in supporting existing policies, and also identify new policy issues raised by RFID, or new challenges where RFID might have a supporting role. RFID is to be interpreted in a wide sense (active and passive), and to also include Internet of Things, and wireless sensor networks. I would be interested to hear from anyone with policy information relating to two specific policy areas:

1. **Food and Agriculture**
2. **Energy Efficiency and Carbon Emission Abatement**

We would like to know about specific policies (with web links or reference to documents), or thoughts on new challenges where new policies are needed, and where ICT built around wireless devices might have a supporting role.

Please send you comments to Paul T Kidd **(email:paulkidd@cheshirehenbury.com)**

General Assembly Meets in London

The British Government's Department of Business, Innovation and Skills hosted the second General Assembly which was held in London in October. More than 30 of the core and associate members participated. Copies of all the presentations can be found at: https://bscw.ercim.org/bscw.cgi/723133.

There were some interesting – and at times animated discussions. Most controversial was the proposal from the Management Board to streamline admission proceedures for new associate members. Prior to the meeting applications were "vetted" first by the Management Board and then forwarded to the General Assembly for validation. It had proved a laborious process. The proposal which was debated recommended that new applications be validated by the Managment Board alone and that the cycle time should be 30 days maximum. The proposal was ultimately approved with 20 votes in favour and five against.

The assembly also approved recommendations from the Management Board that €11,000 be taken from the Central Budget of €50,000 towards the costs of the WP3 database development and that a further €12,000 be earmarked for the costs of developing and maintaining a new website. Each of these figures will be matched with contributions from the Co-ordinator budget. These proposals were unanimously agreed.

British RFID Mission to Japan

The British Government's Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, in collaboration with their Japanese Embassy in Tokyo sponsored an RFID Fact Finding mission to Japan in November. Ian Smith, the RACE networkRFID Management Board Chairman led the group which also included Professor Anthony Furness, another RACE Partner.

Discussions took place with Japanese Government Agencies, and leading RFID, NFC and Energy Harvesting Experts from Hitachi Fujitsu, Ricoh, Sony and Tokyo University.

Opportunities for collaboration with the UK, Europe and RACE were high on the agenda and featured prominently in a half day seminar to other leading Japanese organisations which was presented to a capacity audience in the British Embassy.

The British delegation with Embassy staff visit the famous YRP Ubiquitous Networking laboratory headed by Professor Dr Ken Sakamura (pictured centre)