

## Improved efficiencies with EPC Gen2

Exel, a wholly owned entity of Deutsche Post DHL, the world's leading logistics group, is the North American leader in contract logistics, providing a variety of integrated, value-added and specialist services to a wide range of industries including retail, consumer, technology, automotive, healthcare, chemical and industrial.



Exel is a long-time active member of the GS1 Transport & Logistics action groups. After having run a number of RFID

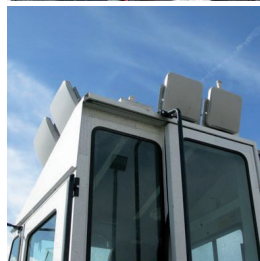
pilots in various facilities around North America, Exel saw the opportunity to significantly improve efficiencies in its container handling facilities through the integration of EPC Gen2 RFID tags into an application for yard management. Working closely with RFID equipment provider Motorola and solutions provider PINC Solutions, Exel specified requirements for a vendor-hosted Yard Management System (YMS) to handle more than 300 trailer spaces at a Southern California Trans-Load Facility.

Implementation of the project took less than four months. The system provides real-time yard visibility for the facility, thanks to one PINC Gate Management module at the entrance, and three PINC Tracker modules for the yard trucks that move trailers and containers around the site. The PINC solution offers quick and easy access to high-level information, an appointment scheduling capability that reduces data entry upon asset arrival, and highly accurate trailer location using a combination of GPS and EPCglobal C1G2 RFID. The use of passive RFID technology has significantly reduced costs, and the system performs yard counts in background, provides email notification of pre-determined events, and all documents are digitally stored and searchable. Users have found the system easy to learn and easy to use.

When a trailer arrives at the facility, a temporary EPC/RFID asset tag is assigned to the container at the gate and matched with identifiers (i.e. SCAC code and trailer

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number) on the container. The fleet trailer and shipment information are thus associated with a specific RFID tag number during the check-in process. The trailer is then moved directly to the assigned parking spot or zone or to a dock door. Yard trucks equipped with RFID readers and GPS receivers keep track of the location of yard assets and shipments while they are in the yard. EPC/RFID tags are provided on a temporary basis for third party trailers. However, the system is also capable of using permanently mounted EPC/RFID tags to give visibility to dedicated fleet assets and associated shipments.



The system has doubled gate throughput, and has significantly increased yard visibility. It has also eliminated manual yard checks and most documentation, while providing improved operational control and tracking of assets. This in turn has led to improved productivity and has assisted in the complete prevention of penalties associated with yard delays and loss of transportation asset visibility. Administrative effort has been reduced by one third, leading to lower headcount requirements. Since the drivers spend less time waiting, they can spend more time driving and waste less fuel. Improved data accuracy and communications have enabled fact-based decision-making and issue resolution.

Looking ahead, Exel will be able to extend visibility of assets to its customers using this unique YMS solution, and will consider integrating the YMS with its warehouse management systems. Exel is also reviewing opportunities to use permanently mounted EPC/RFID tags on fleet trailers in order to further increase gate efficiencies and move towards a multi-enterprise system, providing a platform for collaborative supply chain practices.

More information about Exel at [www.exel.com](http://www.exel.com)