



Customer Case Study

Toyota Canada Yard Management System

www.ahearn.com

Our Challenge

Toyota Canada began discussions with Ahearn & Soper Inc. in 2005 regarding the updating of their vehicle processing systems and operational procedures to match the companies projected growth curve for the future. One of their Vehicle Processing Centres (VPC) was to receive a new state-of-the-art building facility and required new technology to compliment and enhance the new way of processing vehicles. Toyota recognized that by not processing vehicles in batch, but rather individually right from the rail off loading process, would provide efficiencies to the operations and improve throughput of operations, while at the same time increasing the quality of service to their customers and the Dealer network.

Our Solution

Ahearn & Soper worked collaboratively with Toyota in designing a Yard Management System (YMS) that included the following:

- The use of wireless technology for their 300,000 square foot property
- RFID technology to track processing stages of the vehicle received into the yard and through the processing centre
- Automated printing functions and parts allocation
- An administrative console for reporting, system set-up and planning
- A backend system integration with their current vehicle processing system on the mainframe
- Encapsulated, reusable RFID tags (shown below)



RFID ASSET TAG

The EASYHANG RFID ASSET TAG above provides the perfect solution to installing a reusable RFID tag quickly in vehicles. It can be used over and over again, making the most of your RFID budget. Since it is reusable, it is more environmentally friendly than disposable tags and it can be used in a variety of applications. In supply chain and asset management operations - *anywhere there is a place to hang a tag.*



How it Works

In brief, inbound vehicles still in transit to the VPC from the manufacturing plants, are pre-loaded into the Ahearn & Soper supplied system. VPC operations use this data to perform capacity analysis, pre-sort planning and parts ordering, etc.

When a vehicle arrives, mobile terminal technology is used to receive it, inspect it and direct it to its first point of rest (FPOR) in the yard. Here, an *Ahearn & Soper designed and built* RFID tag is attached to the vehicle to be used in the next stages of the process. As each vehicle arrives at the processing building, the RFID tag triggers various readers throughout the facility as to what the vehicles next steps are:

These steps include:

- Printing of new vehicle information forms
- Vehicle option parts allocation
- Vehicle option installation work order tracking
- Vehicle yard placement

Throughout the above steps, the YMS updates the backend system with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) status change in *near real time*. When a vehicle reaches its last point of rest in the yard, Carriers are notified that it is ready for pick up and delivery.

Start of the project was October 11, 2005. By November 2006 the new VPC was fully operational using the Ahearn & Soper supplied solution, with a second site installed in December 2007.

"The in-depth knowledge of both parts and vehicle applications, and the understanding of business it supports are very impressive and appreciated."

Logistics Planning



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