VSI Saves 33 hours per Month using Tablets and Scanners to Do Lot Tracking

The Tablets and Scanners work directly with VSI's existing operating system.

The system took a multi-day, multi-person project and found the results "in about 2 seconds"

Time studies showed that the Tablet and Scanner Program has saved VSI 33 hours and 20 minutes per month.

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"Steve and his team are second to none in terms of responsiveness"

VSI, LLC is the primary supplier of vehicle locks to the North American Heavy Truck Market. On their manufacturing floor, they were looking for a way to eliminate the need to manually document the components that were used in each product. The operators had to write down each of the serial numbers from the components which took a lot of time and could also lead to human error.

Looking for help, VSI contacted Steve at Competitive Strategies, Inc (CSI). "Whenever we have IT related problems and need a creative solution, Steve is one of the first people we go to" states Heidi Barrette, Vice President of Operation for VSI.

Using VSI's existing operating systems, CSI was able to implement a program using HP Elite Handheld Tablets and Motorola Symbol Bar Code Scanners to track lot numbers on components that they used in their products. The operators are able to scan the lot numbers from each component which automatically placed the data into an organized database.

Before the program was implemented, VSI did a time study on the resources being used to manually write down lot numbers from each component. They did this same study after the program was in place and found that the Tablets and Scanners have saved them 33 hours and 20 minutes per month of the operator's time writing down numbers in this phase of the process. Other departments, such as shipping, also benefit from the program but they didn't even think to measure that return on investment. They were completely satisfied with the results.

Another benefit of the program is the database. Recently, VSI was required to provide the orders produced with a particular lot number of a component. Because the data is now organized in a database, they were able to run a report that showed the item number, quantity, and lot number for this particular component. A project like this, before the system was implemented, would have taken multiple days and multiple people to find the information. With the system, Heidi was happy to say they found the information "in about 2 seconds."

Heidi has been more than satisfied with her working relationship with CSI. "Steve and his team are second to none in terms of responsiveness. They always get back to us in the same day. They make our systems work for us. We have never even thought of going with another supplier."

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