

Company info

Sector:
Pharmaceutical supply chain

Location:
US

Implementation date:
2007

Microlise Modules:
- Transport Management Centre
- Real time temperature monitoring

DHL, Microlise and AeroScout Pioneer real-time temperature monitoring solution for pharmaceutical supply chain.

San Mateo, Calif., May 17, 2007
“DHL, the world’s leading express delivery and logistics company, in partnership with Microlise and AeroScout, has developed a dynamic new system for the pharmaceutical industry which enables the real-time monitoring of product shipment temperatures throughout an extended supply chain using RFID sensors.”

With this system, full real-time visibility of the location and temperature of the pharmaceutical shipments throughout the supply chain has been made possible, through a web browser linked to the Microlise Transport Management Centre (TMC) software. The TMC enables real time tracking of the vehicle position along with the temperature indication from the Wi-Fi-based AeroScout Active RFID tags which are used to monitor the shipments.



The system has been installed inside trailers from Mueller Transporte, a Vienna-based company that specializes in Temperature Controlled transportation and is used to transport BioScience products, which need to be stored at between 2 and 8 °C. The first lane to test the system is from Belgium to DHL’s 3PL Warehouse in Sweden.

RFID Wi-Fi temperature sensor tags from AeroScout are attached to shipments inside the load compartment. These tags continuously monitor and transmit the load’s temperature to a Wi-Fi reader connected to the Microlise Tracking Unit installed in the vehicle.

This unit sends temperature and vehicle location data, using a GPS device that transmits data via GPRS to a central server provided by Microlise, which hosts the TMC.



During the journey, the system monitors the temperature of the shipment against customer defined business rules and if the shipment undergoes a change in temperature an alert message (SMS/e-mail) is automatically generated so that the appropriate action can be taken.

An added advantage of using the AeroScout RFID Wi-Fi tags is that the shipment / pallet location and temperature can continue to be monitored within the Distribution Centre even after delivery using the existing standard Wi-Fi access points.

Jeroens Martens, RFID Program Leader at DHL Exel Supply Chain said;

"The pharmaceutical industry is facing more regulation than ever before and our customers are increasingly required to track their shipments to ensure that they have been transported under the correct conditions. Our real time system allows customers to easily monitor temperature-sensitive shipments and will help them meet the stringent requirements demanded of this sector."

The Healthcare Company's Supply Chain Director commented;

"There is a real need to maintain visibility and control of our products and shipments throughout the transport, transit and storage cycles. Real time knowledge of location and condition is essential Present and future regulatory requirements to monitor and report temperature stability during transit and storage will only be met through the use of these integrated technologies and we feel confident that this new system will allow us to achieve these objectives in an effective and economic manner."

Lee Nixon, RFID Product Manager for Microlise added;

"Microlise Fleet & Distribution is well proven technology which has delivered significant efficiencies and cost savings in a wide variety of distribution companies. The integration of the unique AeroScout RFID Wi-Fi tags allows cost effective real-time shipment temperature monitoring that can be easily extended to encompass the end-to-end supply chain."

Gabi Daniely, VP of Marketing and Product Strategy at AeroScout said;

"The flexibility of the Wi-Fi based solution empowers DHL to track location, temperature and other data in a single elegant model to enhance business operations. This shows the dedication from AeroScout and its partners to deliver superior healthcare solutions, whether in the hospital setting or the global supply chain."

Last week, DHL won the RFID Journal Award 2007 at the 'RFID Journal LIVE: Putting RFID to Work' congress in Orlando, Florida.

The award-winning RFID application, developed by DHL Innovation Centre in cooperation with two partners, was nominated in the category of „Best Use of RFID in a Service“. The pilot project, 'temperature-monitored pharmaceutical logistics with RFID', was conducted by the DHL Innovation Centre. The pilot project offers a promising service to the pharmaceutical industry and other sectors searching for a solution for sensitive temperature controlled transports.