



Southeastern Public Service Utility (SPSA)

Utility Improves Efficiency, Reduces Costs With dcLINK®



Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA)

Chesapeake, Virginia, USA

www.spsa.com

Industry

- Solid Waste Management
- Refuse Systems

Business Challenges

- Integrate data collection with ERP
- Standardize processes across multiple facilities
- Increase data accuracy
- Improve inventory control
- Reduce inventory costs

Business Results

- Consistent data collection processes across multiple facilities
- Increased data accuracy
- Simplified processes
- Reduced expenses
- Improved efficiency

Solution Features

- dcLINK®
- Integration to SAP R/3
- Consulting services

Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) a regional waste management authority, operates a 24x7 operation turning solid waste into refuse-derived fuel that is burned to create steam and electricity. SPSA understands that when your business depends on the smooth operation of your equipment, having the right spare part in inventory is critical — but having too many or not enough is unacceptable.

“Our goals were to improve inventory control, increase data entry accuracy and thereby reduce mistakes and costs,” explains Steve Herborn, Director of Information Technology for SPSA.

Challenge:

SPSA realized that the best way to extend its newly-implemented SAP R/3 solution to its warehouse was through the integration of a data collection solution. The agency was already using hand-held scanners to collect data, but the gathered data simply went to a batch session that was processed sometime later.

Solution:

SPSA chose DSI’s award-winning dcLINK in order to gain the real-time feedback, error handling and integration to SAP unavailable in its legacy system.

Jerry Mace, SPSA Material Manager, says that the personal attention DSI provided throughout the implementation process helped ease the transition. “The implementation and training were handled on a one-to-one basis,” Mace explains. “That process helped to familiarize all personnel on the successful use of the bar-coding equipment, which made the transition from the old system to the new progress with no problems.”

SPSA’s services include waste-to-energy, landfilling, household hazardous waste collection, recycling and community education programs. Its numerous operations include a recycling facility (RDF Plant), Power Plant and Transportation Facility that provides fleet management.

The RDF Plant sorts refuse and then sends the recyclable material on an enclosed conveyor across the street to the Power Plant. The Power Plant burns the material to create steam, which is used to provide power to ships in the Norfolk shipyard. The RDF Plant and Power Plant have miles of conveyors and moving machinery. Because both facilities operate continuously, thousands of spare maintenance part items are kept in inventory for replacement and preventive maintenance.

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Steve Herborn
Director of Information Technology
SPSA



SPSA implemented dcLINK for the maintenance departments at both plants to manage its parts inventory utilizing Falcon® 345 industrial handheld data collection terminals from PSC™.

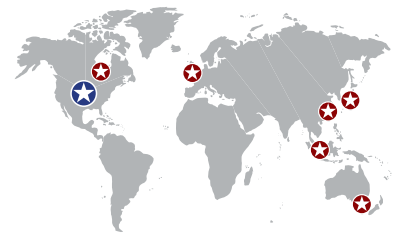
The agency uses dcLINK to receive parts against purchase orders, print labels, put away inventory, issue parts to plant maintenance work orders, perform cycle counting, and complete queries, transfers, etc.

Results:

“The single greatest benefit that dcLINK provides SPSA is consistent data collection processes across these multiple plants for materials management of the plant maintenance storerooms,” Herborn says. “The integration to SAP also provides increased data accuracy through simplification of SAP processes, including goods issue, goods receipt and cycle counting.”

dcLINK’s flexibility provides an especially valuable benefit to SPSA when it comes to its integration to SAP. The agency has chosen not to implement the Warehouse Management module of SAP, which was required by other data collection solutions it evaluated. dcLINK also replicates SPSA’s manual processes for material moves so the agency does not have to complete multiple transactions in order to prepare the information for SAP integration.

Thanks to a smooth implementation, seamless integration to SAP, improved accuracy and a process flow that mirrors its own, SPSA is quite pleased with its dcLINK solution. “The system meets and exceeds my expectations in all respects,” Mace says. “The supply personnel have experienced no problems with software or hardware and are able to accomplish their assignments with ease. It is a win/win for my department.”



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