



Wernsing Feinkost: Getting a taste for integrated wireless communications

The challenge

When Ascom and foodstuffs producer Wernsing Feinkost first discussed a communications solution, one top priority soon emerged: worker safety. That's because staff often work alone, sometimes in refrigerated warehouses with temperatures of -25°C (-13°). In such conditions even a minor incident can have serious consequences. So the solution would have to maximize safety for lone workers. Other priorities emerged. The daily loading of trucks with Wernsing Feinkost products necessitates time and cost-intensive shunting at the company's storage and distribution facility at Addrup-Essen near Oldenburg in the German state of Lower Saxony.

What they were missing was an integrated communications solution that could simultaneously optimize worker safety and workflows. Ascom was given the task to devise a customized, scalable, and comprehensive IP-based communications solution.

“The comprehensive communications solution from Ascom has led to real improvements in worker safety and efficiency. Moreover, the scalability of the solution helps protect our investment. We’re delighted to have found in Ascom a strong, trustworthy partner able to support us in these areas.”

Christian Lübbers, IT Director, Wernsing Feinkost



The Ascom solution

The issue of worker safety was addressed by a personal safety alarm system featuring rugged, compact Ascom d62 and Ascom d81 handsets. With these devices, a worker in distress simply presses an integrated button in order to send alarm messages to assigned colleagues. ‘Man-down’ and ‘no-movement’ functions automatically send alarms even when the worker is motionless or incapacitated.

To solve the traffic flow challenge, Ascom developed a special ‘Pager-Control’ system. Drivers arriving to load their vehicles at the Wernsing Feinkost facility are issued with Ascom d81 devices. The handsets show each driver his or her assigned loading ramp. The devices also give the on-site traffic controllers an overview of all the vehicles’ locations. When leaving the facility, the driver deposits the handset at a ‘smart’ chute that records the vehicle’s identity, and automatically opens the barrier.

Ascom Unite Connectivity Manager (CM) is the software behind the Wernsing solution. It evaluates, prioritizes and distributes data and messages to the mobile handsets—ensuring one smooth, integrated communications system. And since Unite CM is flexible, Wernsing has the possibility of adding further alarms such as technical and building alerts.

About Wernsing Feinkost

Founded in 1962, Wernsing Feinkost GmbH has grown to become a major foodstuffs producer, its facility at Addrup-Essing processing more than 500,000 tonnes of potatoes a year. The company has also acquired several foodstuff producers which, together with Wernsing Feinkost, form the Wernsing Group. The group employs approximately 3,100, and has manufacturing facilities in Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Denmark, and Sweden.

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