



Customer Case Study

License Plate Inventory and Production Tracking

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In May 2008, Ahearn & Soper was approached by a *potential client* in the manufacturing industry who was looking to improve their current manufacturing and inventory tracking processes, specifically for their vehicle license plate production line. There are currently 28 various styles of license plates with more added every year, and this client manufactures and delivers approximately 1.3 million plates per year to its customers.

Prior to the implementation of the Ahearn & Soper solution, customer ...

- operations were completely manual and paper-based
- orders were printed out and hand-delivered to production who would then report on the paper order what plates were manufactured and available for warehousing
- order fulfillment and product shipping followed a similar paper-based process

The manual system produced only 'after the fact' information. Management had to operate and plan while blind to current production and inventory levels. In addition, the manual system was prone to human transcription errors. Late, and often erroneous, information made it difficult to make optimal production and purchasing decisions leading to increased production and shipping costs, waste, and missed customer deliveries.

Contract Awarded to Ahearn & Soper Inc.

Shortly after the initial meetings and discussions, Ahearn & Soper was **awarded a contract** to deliver a **Production and Inventory Tracking Solution** for the vehicle license plate product line of their business. The **goal** of this project was to **improve** their operations in production planning, production verification, inventory tracking, and product shipping. One of the challenging aspects of the project was to deliver a solution that included a production verification component. Vehicle license plates required to be individually and systematically verified against an open order and protected against duplication within the system. ***This component needed to be delivered seamlessly, without impacting their current manufacturing processes and equipment.***

The **Customer's Expectations** for this project were to realize efficiency gains in production and inventory tracking of their 1.3 million plates produced annually, and provide improved satisfaction in the service they delivered to their customers.

Ahearn & Soper's Designed System tracks product from the order stage to production, into inventory, and then out to one of their customer's many issuing locations. Throughout the discovery phase of the project, Ahearn defined all of the solution requirements with the stakeholders and then designed all of their deliverables. This included database design, production and shipping order screens, mobile inventory transaction screens over a wireless network, as well as a license plate bar coding print-on-demand verification system. The verification/print-on-demand component is designed to identify their many different plate types. Using vision cameras and software, this component precisely reads the data on each plate and matches it to a valid production order in the central database. If there is a match, an attached thermal printer produces a bar coded label that represents the data on the plate (the bar-coded label was another value add to the system allowing their customer to now use bar code scanning technology in their issuing offices). This validated plate is now an inventory record and can be physically assigned to a carton of plates. Multiple cartons are then assigned to a pallet creating a parent-child relationship of all the plates on that pallet.

Bar-code technology is used in this process for increased efficiency and error reduction. The finished product is then moved into defined inventory locations for warehousing purposes. When a shipping order is issued, the Shipper records the series of plates shipped and the courier tracking information of the shipment into the system ...

All with the aid of bar-coding and vision technology!

The new system was adopted into standard operations within weeks of installation. Since the go live date, Ahearn & Soper has delivered many solution enhancements based on the user community's positive feedback.



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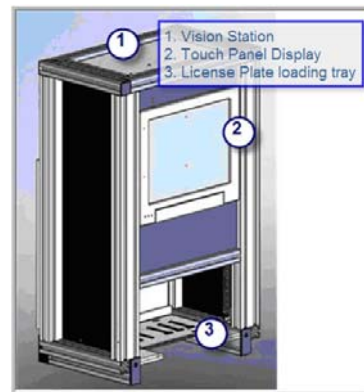
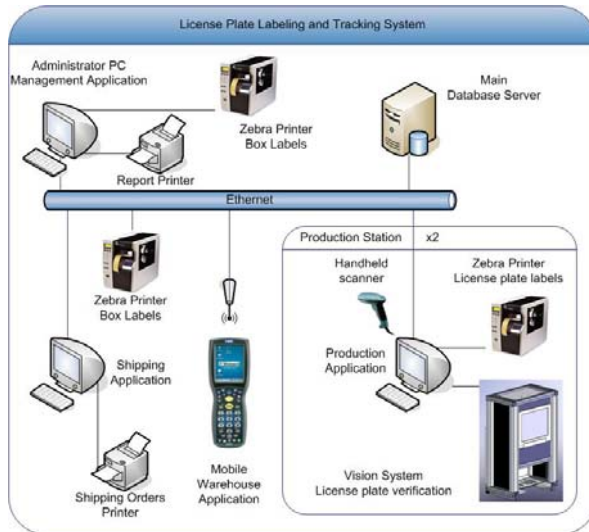
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Professional Services Made Simple!

Our Professional Services Group (PSG) of Solution Designers, Developers and Integrators will help you get your project up and running smoothly and efficiently ... **ON TIME AND ON BUDGET!**

- Inventory and Warehouse Management
- Proof of Delivery
- Field Force Automation
- Quality Assurance
- RFID Tracking
- Plus More



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