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## Aker Yards | Printronix Supports RFID-Based Safety Tracking for Finland's Aker Yards

### Profile

Aker Yards ASA is an international shipbuilding group specializing in cruise ships and ferries, merchant and offshore vessels. The group is an industry leader in innovation, product range, technology, experience and capacity.

### Situation

Aker Yards needed a system that would monitor and track the movements of up to 5,000 craftsmen during the construction of a ship, and provide real-time data that could be used to ensure that safety regulations were being met, and that employees would be protected in the event of fire or other disaster onboard the vessel.

### Goal

- To install an employee safety monitoring system that would:
  - Show an accurate headcount of craftsman on board a ship
  - Catalog the number and location of escape routes
  - Ensure that everyone has escaped from the ship in the event of disaster

### Results

Today, at Aker Yards' Turku shipyard, employee movement in and out of ships under construction is monitored using Printronix RFID-tags. The tag is attached with a sticker to the employees' helmets and the identification is done automatically with RFID antenna located at each entry bridge on the ship.

Unlike many access control reader or paper-based systems, the Printronix RFID safety monitoring system at Aker Yards is entirely effortless for the employees, who often have their hands full of fitting material and tools when entering the ship.

Since it was installed, Aker Yard's Printronix RFID safety tracking system has been awarded the Symbol 2006 EMEA Mobility Innovation Award.

### Reaction

"For Aker Yards the safety of its employees is very important. We have already for long searched for a solution for easy safety tracking, and through tests we ended up to using RFID- technology. The usability of this system exceeds all the other systems that we have seen, because it doesn't require any extra work for our employees. The real-time monitoring of employee location onboard brings us new horizons for further developing the safety issues."

Petri Moisio  
*Safety Manager*