

# Reusable Container Tracking

JOINT SOLUTION BRIEF REUSABLE CONTAINER TRACKING

Intelleflex and its partner, Cetani, Inc., have developed a solution for the automated tracking of reusable containers in the chemical industry. It combines the best of RFID, wireless and web technologies to provide real-time visibility of containers anywhere, anytime.

## Tired Of Losing Expensive Containers Shipped To Customers?

Reusable chemical containers are often expensive assets that cost anywhere from \$200 to \$2,000 or more each. These containers are frequently shipped to customer locations without proper tracking. As a result, containers not returned by customers often go unnoticed. Manual tracking methods are not reliable, resulting in loss of tracking information and hence the equipment.

## Lack of Inventory Visibility?

Lack of inventory visibility is one of the major causes of operational inefficiency. Inaccurate accounting results in delays in order fulfillment and thus late deliveries to customers and lost revenue. Even when assets exit and enter through controlled portals, they can be missed

## Reusable Container Tracking for the Chemical Industry

during peak operational periods. Manual tracking methods increase labor costs and are prone to errors.

## Making Unnecessary Purchases To Make Up For Lost Or Missing Inventory?

One way to ensure a smooth operation is to carry more containers than truly needed. However, this also increases capital costs and waste. A consequence of inaccurate accounting is that it results in unnecessary new purchases to make up for "missing" containers. Not knowing how much you have, where it is, and when it will be available results in thousands of dollars, if not millions, from your bottom line. It also absolves customers from accountability for missing containers.

## The Solution For Tracking Reusable Chemical Containers

The integrated Intelleflex and Cetani solution accurately tracks reusable containers in real time. Whether accounting for inventory at the warehouse or tracking outbound shipments and inbound returns, the solution provides



total visibility to the status and whereabouts of the container.

Intelleflex RFID tags attached to the containers at the manufacturing and distribution facility are automatically tracked by Intelleflex RFID readers placed at key checkpoints such as the weigh station, outbound and inbound dock doors. The readers are integrated with Cetani's Activate application system over the network. When the container passes through the scale, the Cetani Activate system records the container and assigns it to a specific customer for shipment. When the container passes through a dock door, it is moved by the system from the inventory at the manufacturing or distribution site to the inventory at the customer site. When the container is returned to the supplier site, the system updates and records the return information.

Suppliers can thus query the system for instant access to information such as container location, ownership and location history. Alerts can be set in the system if the container is not returned within a predetermined period of time and the information can even be received wirelessly on handheld devices. Suppliers using Intelleflex-Cetani RFID solution can start seeing ROI within the first year of installation and additional returns over the life of the containers.



## Robust Operation

The Intelleflex and Cetani solution for reusable container tracking is designed to operate in challenging outdoor environments and around metal equipment, which can present a problem for ordinary RFID. Our system is built to withstand outdoor temperatures, moisture, and dust conditions.

## Getting Started Quickly

The Intelleflex and Cetani solution is not the typical "heavy" system offered by some vendors. It is designed to let you get started quickly and easily so you can conduct a feasibility study before investing further. The system can be integrated with your existing applications and network, or be used standalone without the need for complex back-end systems. Flexible application options make it simple for your users and operators to use the system.

## Container Tracking Solution Features

- Standards-based infrastructure
- Multiple form factor RFID tags
- Extended range, reliability, memory
- Designed for challenging environments
- Completely web based
- Customization check in/out system allows for complete auditing of container lifecycle
- Easy to get started

activate - Items

Home Boxes Groups Track Locations Events Admin

items

Search Export Create New Add all to item set

(all items) Distribution Center (all facilities) Filter Reset

Name	Destination	Type	Serial Number	Box	Days in Service	Ship Date	Operator	Checked Out To	
p824	Cleveland	High Density	1066	39572	173	04/02/2008 12:00 AM	Bill Williams	-	Track Edit More

Ownership History for p824

User	Checkout Date	Due Date	Checkin Date	Late Days	Checkout Location	Checkin Location	Shipment Number	Order Number	Contents	Weight	Condition	Item Files	Notes
John Smith	2008-08-05	2008-08-12	2008-08-05	0	Distribution Center	Lima, OH	-	-	-	-	Excellent	1 file	This is... Edit

1 Found

MT:500	Cleveland	Pellet	3625	39573	51	04/02/2008 12:00 AM	Bruce Davis	John Smith					Track Edit More
860190	Cleveland	Pellet	3483	39574	208	04/02/2008 12:00 AM	Dave Confrega	-					Track Edit More

Cetani's Activate software user interface for instant inventory tracking



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