

In Dustin's Warehouse, Datalogic's PowerScan Scanners are Working Hard, and Hard-Working

PowerScan bar code readers offer functionality, reliability and ruggedness in the Dustin warehouse



Background

The Dustin Group is a fast growing yet well established supplier of electronics products to both businesses and private customers. They started business in 1984 and have primarily served customers in Sweden, but with their recent purchase of Computer Store in Denmark and near-future plans to branch out in Norway and Finland, they are building a new 20,000 square meter warehouse which will be ready for business in the fall of 2008. Currently, their warehouse is 5,500 square meters. Located in Stockholm, Sweden, they stock approximately 65,000 articles for delivery to their customers in Sweden and Denmark. And with warehouse hours of 6:00 to 22:00, they are able to turn around orders received by 18:00 in the same day.

The Challenge

With 18 packing stations, approximately 70 warehouse employees and an average of 3000 orders per day, this warehouse, like any other, must have good and solid routines, systems and hardware. Reliability is a key for all pieces of the puzzle; and one of the primary pieces is the bar code readers that are used. Dustin turned to one of their hardware and solution providers, DataFångst AB.

The Solution

DataFångst AB is a long-time Partner of Datalogic Scanning, Europe's leading manufacturer of handheld bar code readers. PowerScan® rugged handheld bar code readers were the choice to replace the old readers that were being used. Both corded and cordless versions of the PowerScan industrial readers are used both at the receiving and the shipping stations. Here is how it works.

Receiving

When items are received, they are scanned with the PowerScan handheld readers, automatically updating their inventory levels. The products are then placed on the proper shelves.

Customer

The Dustin Group

Industry

Business and Consumer Electronics

Application

Manufacturing & Warehouse Management

Geography

Northern Europe

Datalogic Product

PowerScan M8300 and PowerScan D8300 Industrial Handheld Readers

Datalogic Partners

DataFångst AB, Accredited Reseller

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Klas Mellström
Warehouse Team Leader, The Dustin Group

Shipping

The orders that come into Dustin via telephone, Internet, fax are entered into Dustin's business system. The picking lists are then printed out continually throughout the day. Dustin uses different colors of paper to print picking lists on – this to visually let the pickers and shippers know the age of any given order. The picker takes the list and manually gathers the items on that order. He then takes the basket full of picked items to one of the 18 packing stations equipped with a PowerScan reader. The packer then scans the "start code" on the picking list. This pulls up an electronic pick list on his computer screen. Prior to placing each item from the order in the shipping carton, he scans it, which should match up to the list on his screen. If not, he will get a warning telling him that an item is missing, or a wrong item has been scanned, etc. This will allow him to correct the mistake. Once the order is ready he scans the exit code on the picking list. This causes the shipping label to print. The shipping label contains a bar code which, when scanned, prints the invoice in the administrative office. This invoice is sent separately.

The Results

When Dustin began the replacement process from the old readers to the new PowerScan readers, the warehouse workers noticed the difference right away. "The trigger works and feels better" and "the laser is so much stronger – you can see it so much better" and "the rumor spread fast that new readers were here; everyone wanted one" were just some of the comments made by the warehouse staff about the PowerScan.

The Team Leader for Dustin's Warehouse staff, Klas Mellström, says, "Our warehouse staff is really pleased with the functionality, ruggedness and reliability of the PowerScan readers, and their approval is crucial for our productivity."

About DataFångst Svenska AB

DataFångst Svenska AB, established in 1997, is a fast growing, independent company in the AutoID industry. DataFångst has its headquarters in Malmö and branch offices in Ljungby, Hässleholm, Gothenburg and Stockholm. With technology based most often on bar codes, DataFångst helps both industrial and retail companies to make their operations more efficient by means of lower inventory levels, better material flow and increased information security.

DataFångst partners primarily with large manufacturers. As representative of these manufacturers, they act as the go-between therefore creating a better and more personal relationship with the customer.



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