

OVERVIEW

One of the nation's largest seafood businesses gains efficiency of inventory and manufacturing transactions with RFgen Mobile Foundations for JD Edwards.



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SNAPSHOT

INDUSTRY:
Food Manufacturing

ENVIRONMENT:
Oracle's JDE
EnterpriseOne 8.0

APPLICATIONS:
• Inventory Control

GOALS ACHIEVED

- 1 Tripled the volume of transactions.
- 2 Expanded business without a ton of added expenses.
- 3 Gained the ability to manage offline transactions.

“ From the time we installed RFgen nine years ago until today, we've nearly tripled the volume of transactions, but the support required has not really changed. ”

- Rick Resto,
Chief Information Officer
Trident Seafoods

THE CHALLENGE

With a large part of the company's operations in Alaska, Trident Seafoods faces many unique business challenges—location, weather, and connectivity issues among them. “We needed to have 24/7 service from many different locations in order to record transactions into our ERP system. And most systems on the market at that time simply couldn't provide us with that level of serviceability,” business analyst, Mike Wheeler, recalls.

Trident Seafoods wanted to utilize barcode scanning and data collection to enhance the efficiency of inventory and manufacturing transactions. They needed a system that could operate around the clock, capturing transactional information through scanners in a mobile environment. Many systems weren't up to the task, some proved too costly, and others couldn't handle the large volume of transactions.

Trident Seafoods' chief information officer, Rick Resto, explained, "Our JD Edwards product had no barcode scanning data collection functionality. And we didn't want to go to a full-fledged advanced warehousing package. RFgen gave us the overall functionality we needed for a reasonable cost."

THE SOLUTION

For approximately nine years, Trident Seafoods has used the RFgen mobile data collection solution to scan and capture critical information and create transactions, such as inventory transfers, work orders, order picks, and pallet labels. RFgen is flexible, scalable, and adaptable to almost any mobile transaction, plus it's tightly integrated to Trident Seafoods' ERP system, Oracle's JD Edwards.

The first order of business is to collect the initial transactions at the remote plants, where fish is prepared for transport on ships. The team at RFgen designed a process to output this information from various production solutions to .csv spreadsheet files and then import those files into RFgen to make the transactions available to JD Edwards. "RFgen gives us 24-hour system availability. We can take a file from any

of our Alaska plants at any point in time, 24/7. That was a key system criterion for us," Wheeler said.

“RFgen touches the flow of our entire product from the beginning to the end with one exception—we don't bar code the fish as they come out of the water.”

- Rick Resto,
Chief Information Officer
Trident Seafoods

During the next steps of the process—sending seafood through the value-add plants in Washington, Oregon, and Minnesota and later shipping products around the world—RFgen captures transaction information through scanners and automatically records it in JD Edwards. With more than 150-people scanning or creating records—including many seasonal employees—ease of use is essential. The scanning screens are simple and sequential, prompting users from step to step.

THE RESULT

RFgen adds speed and efficiency to Trident Seafoods' operations. Wheeler shared that, "Last year we processed just under 1.2-million transactions. Right now,

we're producing over three transactions per minute, 24/7—that's a lot of transactions!" Although RFgen receives quite a workout, Trident Seafoods enjoys "very solid behavior of the system," according to Wheeler, who "can't remember the last failed transaction in the scanning process that was not a user error."

RFgen is the right solution for the unique challenges of the seafood business. "From a strategic standpoint, High Availability is critical, as well as the .csv processing for remote plants," said Resto. And license plating helps the company better serve very important customers.

The IT management team at Trident Seafoods also appreciates the low total cost of ownership. "We've been able to replicate our systems setup and the functionality as we add new locations into the process. We're able to expand our business without a lot of expense thanks to RFgen, which makes it even more valuable to us," Wheeler acknowledged.



ABOUT TRIDENT SEAFOOD The next time you enjoy a filet of Alaskan salmon or Pacific cod, there's a very good chance you'll be eating a product from Trident Seafoods. Founded in 1973 and privately held, it is one of the largest seafood businesses in the U.S., with both offshore and shore-side processing plants, several value-added manufacturing facilities and its own fleet of fishing and processing vessels.