

Identifying and Tracking Food Products to Ensure Compliance and Optimize Inventory Reporting

CASE STUDY



Agriculture



Food and Beverage



Product Serialization and Authentication

CUSTOMER PROFILE

One of the largest privately owned companies in the world specializing in frozen food processing, fertilizer manufacturing, cattle feeding, and other businesses related to agriculture. Primary supplier of food to fast-food chains.

CUSTOMER CHALLENGES

The U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had recently imposed laws regarding the production, transference and sale of genetically modified food products, which required full chain-of-custody before government regulatory approval and Identity Preservation after regulatory approval and commercialization.

REQUIREMENTS

The brand needed to create an official repository of electronic records for internal and external users to file or transfer records into, or a way to establish more consistent control of records that already existed. The solution had to be comprehensive yet scalable to meet the overall program objectives. In addition, the solution had to be intuitive and require minimal intervention by the general user population.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project was to develop and deploy a software solution that identified the brand's products in the supply chain and also integrated seamlessly into the company's existing manual tracking and reporting processes.

Specific features of the solution included:

- Inventory management reporting (e.g., view current and historical status by unique line)
- Real-time notification alerts
- Compliance with U.S. FDA regulations
- Barcoding technology
- Scanning and tracking of unique identifiers via handheld wireless devices



APPROACH

Phases of the project included purchasing and/or building the primary custom application along with barcoding the products (i.e., plants and seeds) and scanning them using a handheld device for capturing data to ensure custody.

OPTEL's solution provided inventory management (locations, types, quantity, movement, field release, storage and destruction), regulatory compliance (inventory and auditing) and agronomics (flexibility to integrate with future agribusiness systems) for recording critical plant and seed information.

The solution identified, evaluated, selected and implemented a comprehensive Identity Preservation solution capable of managing the brand's proprietary plants and seeds in accordance with departmental policy and FDA regulatory requirements.

OPTEL'S SOLUTION

- Data center/data repository – secure data center and shared web and server hardware platform
- Serialized product management and tracking software
- Data and system usage reporting
- Computer and scanning hardware
- Professional services, including requirements development, system design and project plan, project management, data center setup, software configuration and programming, hardware procurement and integration, pre-serialized labels, installation and training
- Technical support and customer service

CONTACT US

For more information on our Fast Track solutions for serialization, visit www.optelgroup.com/fast.

RESULTS/BENEFITS

- A fully integrated electronic system that provided immediate Track&Trace or custody (who did what at what point in time) capabilities that alerted the brand when seeds entered the commercial stream prior to or after formal governmental regulatory approval.
- Capabilities and tools to ensure that the brand's third-party partners were segregating and managing its plants and seeds in accordance with the regulations outlined and mandated by the U.S. FDA.
- A comprehensive Identity Preservation system for the industry. Previously, only hybrid and open-source applications that were developed for other industry products were available. None were readily adaptable to the brand's industry.



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