



ISIS, *keeping it cool* in the 3PL Meat Industry

Melbourne, Australia – March 3, 2008 - One of the largest domestic and export handlers and processors of meat in Australia is currently involved in a multimillion-dollar project to significantly improve its processing and supply chain capability and capacity. Part of this project includes significant process reengineering of its current operations and matching upgrade of their Warehouse Management System: the ISIS WMS from Microlistics.

The ISIS WMS has been running the In-house and Third Party Cold Storage Operations at this facility since 2001 and during this time has provided visibility and productivity benefits that have allowed the customer to expand their operations and increase throughput. ISIS has been a key enabling technology, a key factor in their growth towards becoming one of the biggest exporters of beef in the world.

By combining automation, robotics and the ISIS advanced WMS capabilities; this business will raise the bar in inventory management, in the Cold Storage market place and indeed throughout the Logistics and Supply Chain industry.

The implementation of the Microlistics ISIS system is across several Freezer and Chiller storage rooms at the Melbourne based Brooklyn site and is providing fast accurate “Real time” management of stock in an otherwise compromising environment.

Within the site, there are multiple types of forklifts, reach trucks, conveyer systems and robotics. The ISIS WMS solution has been configured to drive and capture information depending on the equipment and provide detailed ‘Real-time’ Management Reporting based on the throughput and activities of all resources operating in the facilities. .

The customer selected Intermec Radio Frequency Equipment and purchased through a local Microlistics partner who also provide tailored support and maintenance to meet all of the customer’s needs.

One of the many process improvements has been to employ wireless portable label printers to be utilised during receipt of cartons.

With ISIS in control, these cold-rated units from Intermec allow scanning of each individual carton and labelling of the pallet as a whole within 55 seconds from first scan to attaching the label. This process has eliminated what was previously a labour intensive and regularly inaccurate process.

Stan Bearder Operations Manager for Microlistics makes the point. This is what a “Best of Breed” WMS is all about, attention to the important details that directly reflect on the bottom line.

As part of the ISIS upgrade, the customer is now not only interfaced to its current Host System, but are also strategically placed to directly interface with other Third Party Host Systems such as SAP, JDE and standard EDI messaging throughout its customer base.

This significant upgrade in late 2005 proved to be a seamless integration into the workflow with minimal impact, allowing operations to maintain tight delivery schedules and continue to meet customer demands. Microlistics implementation staff was off site 2 weeks after go-live, as ownership of the application has been received by all of the staff.

Productivity gains started to be realised within one month of the go-live and have steadily improved to allow the operations to handle increased throughput with a reduction in staff of approximately 45%.

We attribute this success to the way Change Management was addressed and supported by Senior Management of all of the organisations involved. Microlistics’ qualified Project Management staff and rigorous Conference Room Pilot was instrumental in steering this process.

During the last 5 years production on site has increased by some 10% and with the recent investment in automation and technology headcount in the Warehousing and Cold storage operations has been reduced dramatically.

After the animal has been processed each individual carton has the unique bar code label attached identifying the catchweight and various information related to that individual product.

The cartons are then transported along an automated conveyor line and the barcodes automatically scanned and recorded by the ISIS WMS, cartons are then routed into the blast or chiller facilities depending on the temperature requirements.

Once the product has reached the required temperature the cartons are automatically transferred to the automatic palletiser and each individual carton is again recorded into the ISIS WMS for accuracy and a PID (Pallet Identification) label is produced. This process allows the customer to accurately manage the inventory to individual carton or each level and then track the pallet PID to ensure the correct product is stored in the preferred storage zones and allow simple and accurate retrieval of the pallet when orders are received from customers.

The ISIS WMS allows Operations Management to track by three key performance indicators, product, locations and individual operators.

The ISIS Management Console allows the Warehouse Manager to measure productivity and at a simple glance be able to have a clear picture of all operations and transactions being undertaken in the warehouse.

The site Warehouse Manager says the ISIS WMS combined with the Console and visibility tools has enabled us to have a much greater control over processes and as a result a better understand of the activity levels and resource requirements .I no longer have to go walking over thousands of feet of the warehouse looking for staff and can see at the push of a button what all of our people are doing. This has enabled us to also manage and reduce the amount of materials handling equipment we require to operate the facilities.

We are now looking at moving into the “next gear” at the Brooklyn site with some clever process routines to further enhance the operation and then we will implement the ISIS WMS into some of our other sites.

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