

The Bristol Port Company Goes Wireless with LXE.

CASE STUDY

THE BRISTOL PORT COMPANY By utilizing the LXE Spire® Antenna, Bristol was able to achieve complete wireless coverage with fewer access points. This meant less required power and data cabling, and ultimately a reduced implementation cost.



The Bristol Port Company operates one of the fastest growing privately owned general user ports in Europe at Avonmouth and Portbury. With over £300m of private investment recently, annual throughput has increased from 4m tons to 9.6m tons.

The Solution

A wireless communication's system has been introduced to support LXE mobile handheld and vehicle-mount computers for use by port workers to record container vessel loading and unloading. The Bristol Port Company uses the wireless network to deliver real-time container location and status reporting which results in improved yard planning and utilization, and improved shipworking performance. LXE's unique Spire® Antenna has been crucial to the cost-effective implementation of the system. "The LXE solution allows us to use the latest 802.11b compliant radio technology while minimizing the number of access points required to cover the quay area. The coverage provided by each access point is very impressive, particularly in between our container stacks," commented Paul de St. Croix, Managing Director of OCN and Project Director for all Bristol Port's IT initiatives.

The Results

Because the LXE Spire® Antenna can provide up to 50% greater coverage than conventional antennas, The Bristol Port Company was able to reduce the quantity of access points required for necessary radio coverage, and importantly, was also able to reduce the amount of new power and data cabling required. "We use 17 of LXE's rugged mobile computers to update a container management system which features a real time 3D plan of the container yard, and generates a range of management reports," continues de St. Croix. "The system also receives and generates e-commerce messages linking the terminal to customs and oversea trading partners," added de St. Croix. The current LXE system covers over 23 acres of the port. The Bristol Port Company plans further wireless networks for a rail terminal and another container terminal in Avonmouth within the next 12 months.

About LXE Inc. LXE Inc. improves supply chain performance by applying over 30 years' experience developing wireless products and solutions. From wireless computers, advanced auto-ID technologies, and wireless network infrastructure, to our award-winning customer support - LXE's easy-to-use products are as reliable as the people who install and support them.

Based in Norcross, Georgia, LXE also offers a full range of turnkey services, including radio integration, project and installation management, network design, technical support, and repair services. LXE is a wholly-owned subsidiary of EMS Technologies, Inc. (DAQ: ELMG), and has offices worldwide. For more information, visit www.lxe.com.