

UNILEVER Italia

2.4GHz traceability in cold stores



CASE STUDY

UNILEVER Italia uses Cisco Systems' 2.4GHz WiFi technology and LXE's rugged wireless industrial computers to automate data tracking throughout its distribution network. The VX6 and VX7 rugged vehicle mount wireless computers are integrated with SAP R/3, allowing operators in cold stores (-27°C) to track data of the products being shipped. The tracking system has been implemented in the cold stores of the national distribution network of the Ice Cream & Frozen Food division: Alanno (PE), Latina (RM), Trezzano S/N (MI), Vitulazio (CE) and Venezia, Caivano (NA). The radio frequency systems installed in the cold stores are equipped with Cisco 1231 access points (2.4GHz, 802.11b/g) and the initial implementation will include 70 LXE industrial vehicle mount computers.



Reliable equipment in a difficult environment

The industrial vehicle mount computers chosen by Unilever are the new VX6 and VX7 models recently launched by LXE. These advanced industrial computers are based on the CE.net operating system and a 400MHz Intel XScale processor, and can operate continuously up to a temperature of -30°C. The external bar code reader, used for the input of tracking data, has an external heater to prevent condensation.

"The extreme ruggedness of the LXE VX6 and VX7 vehicle mount computers and the excellent service level, ensured by LXE ServicePASSSM, will allow us to cope with the constant difficulties present in low temperature environments in a safe and secure way", says Andrea Piras, IT Technical Support and Operation Manager.

"The use of VX6 vehicle mount wireless computers in the cold stores of the Unilever distribution network is a further demonstration of the market leadership LXE has achieved in recent years, with its range of products specifically designed to meet the requirements of world class clients", says Daniele Moroni, General Manager, LXE Italia. "Our rugged wireless industrial computers, based on industry standards, interface directly with the client's existing IT infrastructure, drastically reducing integration costs and ensuring a high return on present and future investments."

Integration of strategic technologies

The integration with Unilever Italia's SAP R/3 IT system



was performed using the CITRIX access platform, equipping the LXE vehicle mount computers with the versatile ICA Client.

"The use of the industrial LXE vehicle mount computers allowed us to implement the tracking system linked to SAP R/3 without difficulties", says Alberto Mondoni, IT Infrastructure Service Manager. "Thanks to the large and high visibility colour screen, the operators in the cold stores can track SAP R/3 transactions as if they were using a traditional desktop PC in an office."

“The extreme ruggedness of the LXE VX6 and VX7 vehicle mount computers and the excellent service level, ensured by LXE ServicePASSSM, will allow us to cope with the constant difficulties present in low temperature environments in a safe and secure way.”

Andrea Piras, IT Technical Support and Operation Manager, Unilever Italia

A substantial improvement in shipping

Unilever Italia's Ice Cream & Frozen Food distribution network directly supplies all domestic clients, from major retailers' large distribution centers to small food shops.

“The introduction of the bar code based shipment tracking system has contributed towards a substantial improvement in shipping quality”, according to Leonardo Magini, Technical and IT Distribution Manager. “Our customer service has improved substantially.”

About Unilever

Unilever is one of the world leaders in consumer products. The company has approximately 230,000 employees in over 100 countries; every day 150 million people choose a Unilever product.

About half of the worldwide turnover of the Unilever Group is generated by food brands such as Knorr, Flora/Becel, Hellmann's, Lipton, Iglo/BirdsEye/Findus, Rama/BlueBand, Slim-Fast, Bertolli and famous ice cream brands such as Algida in Italy.

Unilever's home care brands include Omo, Surf, Skip, Cif and Comfort, the main personal care brands are Dove, Lux, Sunsilk, Pond's, Axe/Lynx and Rexona.

The 114 Unilever production sites throughout the world are compatible with the ISO 14001 standard for international environmental management.



LXE Inc.
125 Technology Parkway – Norcross - Georgia 30092 – USA
Tel. +1-770-447 4224 – Fax +1-770-447 4405
E-mail info@lxe.com

LXE International
Generaal de Wittelaan 19-14 – 2800 Mechelen – Belgium
Tel. +32-15-29 28 20 – Fax +32-15-20 71 54
E-mail RF4U@lxe.com

[LXE Belgium +32-15 29 28 20 – info.be@lxe.com](mailto:info.be@lxe.com) • [LXE U.K. +44-1494 46 46 80 – info.uk@lxe.com](mailto:info.uk@lxe.com) • [LXE Netherlands +31-346 21 70 70 – info.nl@lxe.com](mailto:info.nl@lxe.com) • [LXE Italy +39-06 91 80 14 82 info.it@lxe.com](mailto:info.se@lxe.com) • [LXE France +33-1 41 47 99 99 – info.fr@lxe.com](mailto:info.fr@lxe.com) • [LXE Germany +49-2461 690 450 – info.de@lxe.com](mailto:info.de@lxe.com) • [LXE Sweden +46-8 544 445 50 – info.se@lxe.com](mailto:info.middle-east@lxe.com) • [LXE Australia +61-2 9666 57 51 – info@lxe.com.au](mailto:info.middle-east@lxe.com) • [LXE Middle East +971-4 881 3070 – info.middle-east@lxe.com](mailto:info.middle-east@lxe.com) • [LXE Singapore +65-6278 0593 – info.singapore@lxe.com](mailto:info.singapore@lxe.com)

Published by LXE International. Specifications are subject to change without notice. All names, products and services mentioned are trademarks of their respective organisations.