

Press Release. 17 February 2016

Spirit helps to streamline Bowker's warehousing operations

Spirit Data Capture Limited, the specialist independent mobile enterprise consultancy, has helped the Bowker Group to develop a more effective, more accurate and less paper-intensive approach to its warehouse activities. Spirit sourced and developed a solution that includes a new warehouse application, a SUMO ST395 tablet, a Honeywell SR61 scanner and a Datamax printer.

The Bowker Group is a major UK and international transport service provider, with over 120 vehicles and 350 trailers. It was recently voted as one of the 'Top 20 Great British Transport Companies of all Time'. It has 40,000m² of modern warehousing facilities at Preston and Hull, and uses a sophisticated Warehouse Management System. Until recently, the Group was using a paper-based system for data capture and analysis, creating items such as Goods Receipt Notes and Picking Notes, and manually feeding information into its back-end systems.

Chris Kay, Group IT Manager, says: "We wanted to create a more effective warehouse application that would remove manual processing and reduce human error. We needed rugged and reliable handheld devices to handle the large amount of data and processing required. We wanted adaptable software and, as a third party warehouse provider, we had to tailor our systems around our customers' needs."

He continues: "Spirit helped us to map out the various processes in the warehouse. They also gave us valuable advice about the capabilities of some suitable hardware solutions." Spirit developed a software solution that covered the company's warehouse activities from start to finish - including barcoding, auditing, stock control, and health and safety - using different devices for different parts of the application. It also installed WiFi in the Group's Head Office and depots. The new app allows Bowker to record goods into the depot and movement around the site, as well as pick-checking etc. The app was developed in two phases; the first dealing with various workflows and the second with receiving and loading goods.

Spirit recommended the Sumo ST395 tablet, the Honeywell SR61 long-range scanner (which decodes even poor quality and damaged barcodes), and a Datamax printer. The result has been a dramatic reduction in paperwork; fewer manual errors; less time needed to complete jobs; faster invoicing; and improved response and performance times.

Chris Kay continues: "This new approach has streamlined our operations and has increased the accuracy of the information collected. It also makes stock information visible to all of those who need to see it. Some of Spirit's staff have gone beyond the call of duty to ensure that all of our requirements have been met. I would have no hesitation in using them or recommending them to others."

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Notes for Editors: Spirit Data Capture is an independent consultancy specialising in mobile enterprise solutions. Based in Sutton Weaver, Cheshire, the company has extensive

experience of wireless and mobile computing technologies. It is committed to sourcing solutions that will streamline its customers' operations and boost their productivity.

Spirit's capabilities include software application development; hardware (including handheld and wearable devices, mobile printers and wireless infrastructure); mobile device