



Glanbia Foods Case Study

Glanbia Foods Chooses Symbol Taskmaster® System for Cheese Operations

Glanbia Foods has implemented Symbol Technologies' TaskMaster ® enhanced operations control product in its cheese distribution centre in Oswestry, Shropshire. Glanbia upgraded from their previous narrowband system to the latest (WLAN) technology, in order to take advantage of TaskMaster's ability to link to the company's enterprise -wide SAP system in real time.

The other key factor was Symbol's ability to commit to very tight timescales. Symbol was able to do this because TaskMaster implementations are predominately based on configuration, not enhancements, thus reducing the timescale and the risks involved.

Part of the IR£2.5 billion Glanbia plc, Glanbia Foods deals primarily in hard and crumbly English cheeses. The company receives 20Kg blocks of cheese from its four UK manufacturing sites; cutting and packing it for onward distribution to major UK supermarkets to sell primarily under their own labels.

Glanbia Foods has been using Symbol and scanners in finished goods area for some time. TaskMaster now allows booking of finished products in and out of their temperature controlled warehouse with a real-time interface to the SAP system.

Commented Phil Barker, IT Manager, Glanbia Foods: "The Group has many common suppliers and customers and we have an opportunity to streamline our inter-company operations and relations with our customers and suppliers through common systems and interfaces. Taskmaster, because of its certified wireless interface to SAP R/3 and its complementary functionality, extends SAP to provide a total solution for Glanbia. TaskMaster also has many advanced warehouse management functions which will allow us to maximise the efficiency of our booking-in operations in the near future."

A truly complementary solution for inventory management business systems, TaskMaster manages an intelligent database for the execution of tasks in any type of fulfilment centre, including store, pick centre, distribution centre, or warehouse. TaskMaster's workload optimisation logic ensures that every action is controlled, validated and allocated to the most suitable operative based on work -skills, current environment and priorities.

Focusing on the concept of workload optimisation from manufacture through to point-of-sale, TaskMaster is designed to provide the highest level of control, streamlining operations and providing true business benefits through cost reduction and greater utilisation of assets. The TaskMaster solution (TaskMaster v2.0) received full SAP R/3 v4.0B certification for its interfaces to the MM-MOB (Mobile Data Interface) and WM-LSR (Warehouse Control Systems) modules in early 1999.