

Case Study

Directa

Industry

Manufacturing and Distribution

Number of employees

50 +

Solution & services

- SYSPRO ERP
- Managed Services
- Opticon Barcode Scanners

The challenge

- Manual, labour-intensive stocktake
- Lots of paperwork
- Manual reporting

The benefits

- Efficiency and accuracy for the warehouse, eliminating excess paperwork, additional staff and time spent cross referencing documents
- Reduce stocktaking by 1 whole day
- Fast access to accurate information
- Ability to run reports in real-time and analyse them much faster



NexSys prescribes barcode technology to ease Directa's stocktakes



Directa is a leading UK industrial and office supplies company. In 2008, Directa contracted NexSys to provide a comprehensive IT support package, including a fully tailored SYSPRO ERP system, Dell hardware and remote network support. The NexSys solution modernised Directa's financial and distribution processes. Directa has taken another step forward with its SYSPRO ERP solution by starting to automate its stocktaking using handheld Opticon barcode scanners.

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Stocktaking can be an arduous task for any company if the approach is manual. That is why many forward-looking companies have asked NexSys to help them harness the power of the barcode, a 50-year old invention that brings efficiency and accuracy to the warehouse eliminating the need for mountains of paperwork, additional staff and days of cross-referencing documents to items held on the warehouse shelves.

When Directa bought its SYSPRO-based solution, it also purchased two barcode scanners and a Zebra Technologies barcode label printer. Directa purchased the data capture equipment to help streamline its warehouse operation and stocktaking procedures. A traditional company used to manual data capture for stocktaking, Directa decided to call in NexSys to help the company get to grips with the auto ID technology.

“In just two days of NexSys consultation, Directa had grasped the use of the batch data collection equipment and will be confident enough to use the devices for its next quarterly stocktake.”

NexSys enables smooth transition

Directa was concerned about losing data as it moved from paper to a computerised stock management system. However, NexSys did all the initial transporting of data with Directa so that the in house team could see how secure and compliant SYSPRO is. In just two days of NexSys consultation, Directa had grasped the use of the batch data collection equipment and will be confident enough to use the devices for its next quarterly stocktake in July. Not all 10,000 items have been barcoded yet but three large areas are set up ready to go.

“The consultation stage went really well. The consultant spent two days with us, teaching us how to best use the devices with SYSPRO and how to streamline our stocktake process. He

really motivated us to start getting the best out of our SYSPRO system and the Opticon Devices. He provided us with the confidence we needed to start using the software independently. We hope to save time and labour. We hope to free up our Purchasing department and not have someone spend hours manually tallying up stocktake information. SYSPRO should do it all for us through the Opticon devices making stocktaking that little bit less daunting,” says Cheryl Thompson, Secretary to the Directors, Directa.

Batch data capture streamlines stocktaking

Directa’s Opticon barcode scanners are batch data-collection devices. They have been programmed to allow the automatic capture of warehouse locations, stock codes and quantities simply by scanning the barcode, which eliminates the usual paperwork and saves time. The captured data is stored temporarily in the memory of the scanner in a flat data file format before uploading it to SYSPRO via the scanner’s docking station. The data is validated before it is imported into SYSPRO using the standard bespoke stock take import program. This provides Directa with fast access to accurate information about the physical stock in the warehouse and reconciles it against the stock held in SYSPRO.



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Directa benefits from speedy stocktake

Eventually all of Directa's stocktakes will be completed by simply scanning the items in the warehouse. Once the items have been scanned, it is a simple matter of sending the stock information to SYSPRO using the scanner cradle. Then, the operator logs into SYSPRO, presses import and the system does the rest. The added benefit of adding the barcode system to SYSPRO is the ability to run reports in real-time and analyse them much sooner than before - there is no need to wait for all the reports to be collated manually as the system provides all the information automatically at the touch of a button.

Directa is very pleased with how easy the equipment is to use and have asked NexSys to quote for additional devices. Directa will have four scanners and cradles that allow for constant charging.

“In total, the devices will help to reduce stocktaking by one whole day. Where previously a quarterly stock take would have taken two or three days, we could now get it done in no more than two days, freeing us up to get on with other aspects of the job.”

About NexSys

NexSys is a SYSPRO elite partner, with 40+ years' experience of delivering Innovative ERP+ solutions to manufacturers and distributors throughout the UK. NexSys technologies grant organisations of all sizes maximum visibility over business-critical information, enabling decisions to be made based on accurate, reliable, real-time insight. The company provides solutions that enable agility, innovation, and competitive edge. As part of the global K3 group, NexSys has specialists that have remained loyal to the business for more than a decade. It provides project management, software development, consultancy, support and training to customers to help them realise maximum ROI.