



LOGISTICS



NURMINEN LOGISTICS OYJ. Helsinki | Finland

NURMINEN LOGISTICS MANAGES COMMODITY FLOW AT THEIR 37,000 SQUARE METER FACILITY. Nurminen Logistics' Meru wireless solution provides the stability and speed required to improve processes and data accuracy.

"The best evidence of Meru Network's reliability is that the IT department does not hear anything about it. The network performs its crucial role in complete serenity. We are extremely pleased with our choice."

Petri Lindfors | Development

Challenges

- ❑ Streamline processes, communications and dataflow by utilizing wireless networks.
- ❑ Require a stable high-speed wireless network for business-critical data.
- ❑ Large facility with many obstructions made a site survey a dicey proposition.

Results

- ❑ Forklifts outfitted with wireless computers, allowing for faster, accurate and predictable commodity flow.
- ❑ Able to confidently utilize bar-code scanners, improving accuracy and timeliness of data.
- ❑ Improved quality control and customer service.

Challenge

At the end of 2008, Helsinki opened Finland's largest and most modern cargo port, Vuosaari Harbour. When Vuosaari Harbour opened, staff members in Nurminen Logistics' centre realised that some elements of their work were unnecessarily laborious and time-consuming. Stock staff had to collect data by hand, which (in addition to being time-consuming) resulted in many unnecessary paper prints. The risk of human error with manual data collection is also much greater than with electronic bar code scanning, so staff members were not always 100 percent confident in their data accuracy. For forklift drivers, communicating with the terminal office was tedious: when they wanted to input data or make prints, they had to descend from their forklifts and seek a fixed workstation somewhere on the 37,000 square-meter site. Information always seemed to be someplace other than where it was needed.

Nurminen Logistics decided to seek a high-speed, reliable wireless network to support all of their business-critical data links in the main building complex, which covers two terminals and another terminal with a rail connection. They needed a WLAN that could cover a lot of ground, penetrating many obstructions, without the hassle and expense of a detailed site survey. Most important, the network had to be reliable: key information passes between forklift computers and customer service in real time, so crashes and broken connections could be devastating to customer service and the management of the flow of goods.

Results

Data now moves seamlessly between forklift computers and customer service, which has resulted in drastically improved quality control: deviations can now be recorded and acted upon without delay. If a package is found damaged, for example, the information can immediately be communicated to customer service, and the situation rectified. Commodity flow is much easier to predict, and it is also easier to determine where the cargo will be loaded and unloaded in the truck. Another benefit is that forklift drivers can now use forklift computers to convey job guides to the storage staff instantaneously. Meru has enabled more effective management and planning of the flow of goods; faster execution of supply forklifts; improved quality control and customer service; and optimum usage of storage capacity.

Why Meru

Nurminen Logistics found that Meru Networks' Virtual Cell architecture made it the most dependable wireless networking solution available. When Nurminen Logistics and certified Meru re-seller Finnohm in conjunction with distributor Daimler Finland Oy Ab tested other vendors' solutions, it became clear that Meru was the most powerful, cost-effective and reliable wireless networking solution on the market.

"The best evidence of Meru Network's reliability is that the IT department does not hear anything about it. The network performs its crucial role in complete serenity. We are extremely pleased with our choice," said Petri Lindfors, Development, Nurminen Logistics Plc.

Nurminen Logistics has different operating points in Finland, and the company offers a total of 130,000 m2 of storage capacity. The Group is currently considering remote controlling the 33 branches of their logistics centres by using a Meru Networks MC Controller in the Vuosaari Logistics Centre. They would also like to expand the usage of wireless forklift computers and bar code scanners to their other locations.

For more information about Meru Networks wireless networking solutions, visit | www.merunetworks.com |
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