

## **Industrial Evolution Monitors Inventories Using RFID Technology at Manistique Papers**

*Following "RFID Readiness Assessment", our Partner, Stratum Global, delivers RFID Readers and TagNet™ Solution.*

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA, November 6, 2007** — Industrial Evolution today announced the sale of an RFID-based inventory monitoring solution to Manistique Papers for management and control of raw materials.

Manistique Papers was the first North American mill to be certified process chlorine free. It is North America's premier producer of 100% recycled fiber content and was its first manufacturer of recycled content newsprint. When a customer chooses Manistique Papers, is taking a vital step in turning today's immense flow of wastepaper away from our nation's landfills and into quality paper products.

One of the challenges of Manistique's business was to ensure that the right quality of raw material (used paper) is used to make the right finished product. Manistique felt that RFID technology could help in solving this challenge, by labeling bales of raw material and tracking them through the production process.

RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) is a technology that is familiar to many who have used it embedded in building security badges or on toll roads "EZ Tags". A chip encoded with information wakes up as it passes a reader and shares the stored information via the reader to a master database. Radio waves provide the power needed to activate the chip and are used as the communication channel. In the case of Manistique, the chip would be encoded with quality information about each bale of used paper. As the bales are stored in various locations in the mill, readers can recognize where bales of specific quality are located and the number available in order to formulate a production plan.

As an existing supplier of inventory management solutions to Manistique, Industrial Evolution was initially selected to perform an RFID readiness assessment – reviewing the work flow pattern of production, recommending best fit-for-purpose RFID tags and reader. Together with our partner, Stratum Global, a cost/benefits analysis was performed and a deployment plan proposed.

Manistique has now decided to go ahead with a project, and in addition to ordering the recommended tags and readers, has licensed TagNet from Stratum Global. TagNet is a software tool that can interface to most available tag reader equipment and manage the installed RFID infrastructure and production workflow.

"This is a great success for us and our partner, Stratum Global. In 2007 we performed 3 RFID Readiness Assessment for various customers, and it is great to see Manistique adopting our recommendations already," commented Gene Sullivan, Industrial Evolution's Director of Inventory Management. "For many of our customers, bulk inventory represents only a portion of the total product they have stored at their customer facilities. Often product is stored in drums, totes, bags, cylinders and the like. Sometimes these storage containers themselves are valuable and needed to be tracked independent of the contents. Sometimes there are cross-contamination concerns that need to be monitored; sometimes there are inspection schedules that need to be respected; and more often these days there are security concerns that mean all product should be accounted for. RFID is the only viable technology to handle all these needs, and our customers are asking us to help out. Our inventory monitoring solution Web\*VMI has proven itself to be able to manage bulk inventories; now we have a solution that can be presented in the exact same Web\*VMI environment to manage discrete inventories."

Bill Hood, CEO of Stratum Global added: "We are a world leader in deployment of RFID solutions across all industries. We are very pleased to see Industrial Evolution bringing this technology into the process industries".

For more information contact your local Industrial Evolution representative.

#### **About Industrial Evolution**

Industrial Evolution specializes in Data Services that capture, store, transform, exchange and present real-time process data. Large process companies are increasingly forming collaborative partnerships with their suppliers, customers and even competitors, focused on improvement in operating performance, reduction of inventory, increase in supply chain efficiency and optimization of logistics. Our services are tailored to the non-operating partner's need for real-time data from an operation in which it has an economic interest.

Industrial Evolution is headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, and also has operations in Edmonton, Alberta Canada. Additional information is available on the Internet at [www.industrialevolution.com](http://www.industrialevolution.com) or call Simon Wright on +1 (602) 867-0416.

#### **About Stratum Global**

Stratum Global is a software solutions company that develops and markets TagNet, a release supported, platform agnostic Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) solution suite. Stratum Global's sole business is RFID. Their customers are realizing the benefits today of complete RFID enabled solutions for Closed-Loop, Asset Management and Compliance. Stratum Global delivers best-in-class RFID business solutions with a solid understanding of industry key issues, current trends and recognizing that each customer has unique needs and complex requirements. They provide complete implementation services including site surveys, hardware installation, enterprise integration, tags, services and education to support the total RFID solution.

For more information call 303.730.7343 or visit [www.stratumglobal.com](http://www.stratumglobal.com).

#### **About Manistique Papers**

Located in Manistique, Mich., Manistique Papers is North America's premier producer of 100-percent recycled fiber content paper products. Each year, Manistique Papers recovers 175,000 tons of wastepaper from municipal recyclers and printers, redirecting more than 2.4 million cubic yards of waste from our nation's landfills.

Manistique's papers are used for commercial printing and book printing as well as food service applications, business papers and envelope converting. The archival-quality paper is available in a variety of brightnesses and basis weights. The mill began manufacturing newsprint in 1920 for the Minneapolis Tribune. In 1959, Field Enterprises owned by Marshall Field IV acquired the mill with plans to supply newsprint to the Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Daily News. All of the mill's products have been manufactured using 100-percent recycled paper since 1984. Additional information is available on the Internet at [www.manistiquepapers.com](http://www.manistiquepapers.com).