

BUCK & HICKMAN SUPPLIES FIRST RFID ACCU-PORT SOLUTION TO EUROPE

Buck & Hickman, the UK's leading distributor of tools, maintenance and health and safety products, has supplied a unique vendor managed inventory system called the Accu-Port to a leading power generation company. This is the first time that this innovative solution has been installed anywhere in Europe.

The Accu-Port, powered by the CribMaster software, saves the customer money on surplus stock and lost equipment thanks to an RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) portal that can track the movement of everything from small drill bits, consumables and hand tools right up to the management of serialised gauges or durable items.

There are two primary areas of control. Firstly over the issue of consumable items to employees and secondly the control of durable/serialised items such as gauges that require regular calibration and maintenance. Previously without employing a stock controller, equipment could be taken freely by any member of staff with no accountability if it was lost or not returned at the end of a shift. This often results in high replacement costs or the over ordering of stock.

The Accu-Port uses coded RFID tags that are attached to each piece of equipment. Employees can only gain access to the crib by identifying themselves via a touch screen panel which records who has taken which piece of equipment.

Mark Peers, Head of Value Added Services at Buck & Hickman, commented: "The CribMaster Accu-Port is the next step forward in managing store solutions. As a passive issue device it simplifies even further the demands on the user to remove products, but allows complete traceability and greater accountability. Buck & Hickman look to provide solutions to help companies gain better control over their consumable stock, the control of their durable items and reduce their product consumption, all to help impact operational efficiency. This is a state-of-the-art vending machine solution that can help European manufacturers get control of their indirect materials."

For further information log on to www.buckandhickman.com or call 08450 510150 for further information. Buck & Hickman is part of The BSS Group Ltd, a market leading distributor to specialist trades.

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For further information please contact Rose Kilby or Tom Leatherbarrow at Willoughby PR on 0121 456 3004 or email toml@willoughby-pr.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

The BSS Group

The BSS Group Ltd is a market leading distributor to specialist trades. It has three Divisions: Domestic, Industrial and Specialist. The BSS Group turns over in excess of £1.4 billion, operates through 400 trading branches and employs almost 5,000 people. It is headquartered in Leicester.

Travis Perkins plc

A major PLC, Travis Perkins is a leading company in the builders' merchant and home improvement markets, and is a main supplier to the building and construction market, one of the largest industries in the UK.

Travis Perkins recently acquired the BSS Group. The combined Group turns over in excess of £4.2bn, operates through seventeen businesses with more than 1,650 trading branches, employing around 20,000 colleagues.

Buck & Hickman

Buck & Hickman is the UK's leading supplier of tools, maintenance and health and safety products offering 60,000 products to order today and use tomorrow.

The Roebuck brand is exclusive to Buck & Hickman and offers a comprehensive range of over 23,000 tools, maintenance and health and safety products. Roebuck products are designed specifically for professional users working in demanding industrial environments.