

# PRESS RELEASE FOR FOR GS1'S 'SUPPLY CHAIN LINK' MAGAZINE,

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## Australian-first Gen2 RFID pilot on track

Australia's first Gen2 RFID trial is well on track.

The pilot, which is being run between Patties Foods and Montague Cold Storage, also involves Matthews Intelligent Identification (supplying all RFID hardware and software), VeriSign and GS1 (as overall project co-ordinator). The trial is also one of the first to use all the elements of the EPCnetwork to enable sharing of data between all business partners using the EPCglobal standards.

Mark Dingley, Identification Systems manager at Matthews, says its main aim is to determine the reliability and integration ease of RFID Class 1 Gen 2 technology into a production environment, in a true business-to-business setting.

"We will do that by tracking pallets of Patties Foods products from Patties through to Montague's. Class 1 Gen 2 RFID technology is the new ratified global standard for use with the Electronic Product Code [EPC] in global supply chains.

"Since beginning in September, we have completed the design phase, including label and tag design, and undertaken a 'build and test' phase. This includes developing, integrating and testing software, which we've written as an extension of Matthews' IDSnet software suite. We've also developed a web portal; a 'window' displaying the system's precise status — such as, which pallets have been produced, where they are in the supply chain, elapsed time from manufacture to supply, and so forth."

The existing label printer at Patties Foods was replaced by one that can print and load information onto the RFID-label embedded tags. "These labels look like a standard SSCC label, indeed we designed them to replace the existing ones so they would remain compatible with Woolworth's labelling standards."

Matthews used its RFIDnet software solution to interface the RFID equipment it installed at Patties and Montague's back to the VeriSign-managed EPC-IS system. Information is uploaded to the EPC-IS when a pallet is labelled, goes into the Freezer storeroom, is dispatched from Patties Foods and arrives at Montague's.

"In theory — although not part of this pilot — any other authorised organisation in the supply chain receiving that pallet could access the EPC-IS to find out manufacture details, transport details and so on."

The pilot's technical architect with Matthews, Owen Baker, says two of the biggest challenges were ensuring the labels with embedded RFID tags survived the freezer environment and interfacing to the VeriSign EPC-IS system.

"This is the first time that's been done with the Gen2 in Australia, to our knowledge. It proves different companies — with no electronic relationship — can effectively use this as a way of communicating this information between trading partners."

With background work complete, the actual trial began in late February, running for a month.

Dingley says, "Matthews has made a significant investment in this pilot with the hardware and software we've supplied. We really believe in the benefits of RFID, and, as with the other partners, deem this pilot an excellent beginning."

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