

TransQuest/Dutch Ministry of Justice Operational Efficiency Real-Time Security Monitoring

Case Study



Wavetrend Channel Partner

TransQuest Tag & Tracing Solutions B.V. is a Netherlands-based integrator that provides RFID access and security solutions to a wide variety of clients and environments, including tracking systems for office buildings, museums, logistics operations, prisons and hotels.

Business Challenge

The Dutch Ministry of Justice needed a way to cost-effectively increase its prison capacity, and improve outcomes for low-risk detainees (traffic offenders, shoplifters, etc.) at a new pilot facility in Lelystad, The Netherlands. Officials wanted to be able to monitor inmates as they moved throughout the facility, and to automate access to inmate privileges (like telephone or Internet use) based on a rewards system.

The Ministry's objectives for the system were to safely increase the ratio of inmates to guards while providing robust surveillance and monitoring functionality, and to reduce costs.

Solution

In an effort to address prison capacity issues in a cost-effective manner, and to provide a better rehabilitative environment, the Dutch Ministry of Justice built a new pilot facility in Lelystad for low-risk offenders who had received short sentences (four months or less). TransQuest provided a robust RFID tracking system that allows a relatively small staff to monitor inmates in real-time as they move throughout the prison.

Inmates wear non-removable RFID bracelets from Wavetrend that provide location data via the long-range reader network to SmartTag software from U.K.-based Advanced Positioning Systems (APS). Using the RFID bracelets, inmates log on to computer terminals located in each cell to create an individual daily schedule for work and recreation activities. Once the schedule is validated by the Ministry of Justice systems, it is transferred to the TransQuest application to authorize the necessary access within the facility.

The system monitors inmate location and adherence to the schedule using the active RFID bracelets, and awards credits for good behavior or generates an alarm if an inmate is not within their scheduled zones for the day. As inmates accrue credits, they receive greater privileges such as extra telephone, Internet, or television access.

Guards are alerted to schedule deviations via mobile computers integrated with the software. They also carry key fob RFID tags with built-in panic buttons in case of an emergency.

Providing real-time monitoring has helped increase the inmate-to-guard ratio, so that the facility can be operated by only six staff members. Automating inmate scheduling has reduced the cost of supervising detainees, and provided additional rehabilitative benefits by giving inmates more responsibility and control over their daily activities.

The pilot facility has been so successful that officials hope to expand the system to seven additional facilities.

Results

- Only six guards required to operate the prison facility
- Decreased expenses per detainee by 28%
- Increased prison capacity
- Eliminated roll call checks
- Improved use of human and physical resources
- Improved staffing levels by more than 20%

Customer Comments

"The goals of the project are better detention for less money. Better detention means that the programs for prisoners are richer and more effective. We can now say that everybody is quite satisfied with the new possibilities of using RFID technology."

- Jan Piek
Project Leader, Detention Concept Lelystad



RFID | ACTIVATING YOUR BUSINESS

WWW.WAVETREND.NET