

The risks facing a client user of Active RFID enabled systems is that they don't work at all, work partially or cease to work after commencement of operation. In the application of Active enabled platforms, potential systems integration risks abound in their variety and potential impact.

Issue 1:

There are few companies able to provide a total hardware and software solution and there is thus the integration between the two before looking at client's legacy systems - this is a software protocols matter, but should not be an issue if properly addressed;

Issue 2:

A significant area of potential complexity is in feeding RFID data into client systems. Active RFID systems generate real time performance information which many systems are not equipped to handle i.e. MIS and financial management systems;

Issue 3:

The integration risk in 2 above can be particularly acute in production machinery environments where there are often more than one different software package or system working simultaneously.

Issue 4:

Integration risk exists in the RFID Reader and tag configuration to be able to actually read all the tagged assets within a given location. RFTRAQ has experience of tracking assets zoning their location within very tight area constraints i.e. bay 1, bay 2 and so on. It is to some extent a 'black art' but debate about this level of performance and functionality is not something which finds its way into press reporting—most suppliers are simply at pains to point out that their system 'works'. The integration risk is whether the chosen system can work in a specific client environment and it's a client's required functionality that determines whether a system can work or not?

Issue 5:

Integration risk exists in relation to multiple systems usage - for example, visual monitoring (high speed or CCTV), Active RFID, passive RFID, sensory equipment and systems, and so on.

Issue 6:

Fulfilment risk is a form of integration risk - namely delivery of working components that are fit for purpose. An example is the purchase of tags for working in robust industrial environments. If they break is it because (1) the enclosure is not fit for purpose; (2) is the enclosure strong enough, but the way in which the tags are housed within the enclosure a weakness; (3) Are the Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) on the tags too thin; (4) has a radical change in temperature led to a differential expansion rate between the enclosure and the tag / its components, such that the components on the tag have been dislodged from the PCB? This example could be categorised as tag/enclosure integration risk, procurement risk, component design risk. All of the above result in failure, but who is to blame and where does the risk lie?

Systems integration risk is typically systemic i.e. all sub systems work but not the total package or, if all but one system works, that single exception prevents the total system from working.

RFTRAQ Systems Risk Management & Mitigation

RFTRAQ is able to provide its clients with a variety of ways in which the risks attaching to its Actively enabled RFID platforms can be mitigated, they include:-

Proven Success and Experience:

2 years of operations deploying a highly sophisticated Active RFID platform in the Newsprint industry, in an international logistics and supply chain, in both production and logistics management, with blue chip clients, and proven reliability of 99.98%. This platform is now being rolled out to other clients and at scale.

Ability to Provide a Total Solution:

The Company has the expertise in every single area of RFID application including high tech hardware, software and engineering

Product Experience:

RFTRAQ has used many of the third party products available in the market and has a considerably wider knowledge than simply its own product suites;

Superior Active RFID Products:

RFTRAQ's Active RFID products have a superior functionality to all other equivalent products on the market;

Simplicity of Active RFID Products:

RFTRAQ's products have been designed for ease of installation and to take as much of the 'black art' out of configuration as possible to enable any engineer to install the system;

Business Model:

RFTRAQ not only has the ability to provide a total solution, it does, on which basis issues and risks identified above fall to a single party and are not distributed for argument between a variety of suppliers;

Procurement Model:

RFTRAQ is able to provide its clients with long term supply contracts where the platform can be paid for on a monthly service basis;

What we don't have and can't find we can design:

RFTRAQ has proven that it can find a way to solve most of the problems it has been presented with in relation to the application of active RFID technologies;

Quality Assurance & Control:

RFTRAQ has designed QA / QC systems into its technology and systems so, for example, it monitors Active RFID RSSI's, battery life and other key variables continuously. It can also determine whether a tag has been damaged and is no longer functioning