



RFID pallet pioneers

Logistics Business examines a product which promises to introduce traceability into operations which depend on wooden pallets.

A unique product

At LogiMAT we met up with Markus Falkenhahn, CEO of Falkenhahn AG, and discussed the capability they have had since 2012 to integrate an RFID transponder invisibly into Europallets. Their use allows the automated identification of the pallets without individual contact between the pallets and the reader.

“At LogiMAT we have the RFID pallet, which is unique to Falkenhahn - we are the only ones worldwide who can produce a wooden pallet with RFID inside. It's been around for 1 1/2 years and is in use but we are now here showing what it does and the advantages.”

The big advantage of the RFID pallet, invented by Falkenhahn AG, is that it allows error-free identification without sight of pallets and goods. This means

automatic and faster inventory. On top of this it allows for reliable positioning and location of pallets and goods plus tracking of all logistic activities.

“The tag is 5-6% of the cost of the pallet, and which RFID tag goes in depends on what the customer wants. Sometimes they deliver them and we fit them, or we can look for the tags and can offer the solution. The measurement of the pallets is fixed but on the RFID feature is all open.”

Further advantages

It is an interesting product, but there are further advantages to working with Falkenhahn. “We are one of the biggest producers of wooden pallets in Europe with a capacity of 10 million pallets a year. Another big plus is our location in the middle of Europe, which allows us to reach all of our customers in one day. We have our own logistics department and our own trucks to make the deliveries and do everything at our own facilities. What's also special is that we can manufacture heat-treated pallets too.

“We also have a 100% quality guarantee

- we check every single pallet after it is produced. Nobody else can do this in Europe.”

In terms of customers, the RFID Pallet is suitable for a very broad range of businesses. “We are focusing on the automotive and intralogistics sectors at the moment but you cannot say that it is specifically of use for one sector. Anyone can use it.

CeMAT presentation

“We want to focus on growing in markets outside of Germany, where they are already well established - for example the Netherlands and France.”

For more information on the RFID pallet you can find Falkenhahn presenting at CeMAT this year (Hall 27, Stand C37). They will be part of a collective display. “You will see the whole workflow about the industrial process from unloading the container to loading the trailer. It's a big community stand featuring about 50 exhibitors. We are the main company because in the whole process you need a pallet!” concluded Falkenhahn.

www.falkenhahn.eu/en