

PRESS RELEASE

iBin – Stocks in Focus

INFORMATIVE. INNOVATIVE. INTELLIGENT.

Würth Industrie Service
GmbH & Co. KG
Stephanie Kozany
Press and
Public Relations
97980 Bad Mergentheim

Bad Mergentheim/Main-Tauber-Kreis. On January, 16th 2013, Würth Industrie Service is the first C-Part partner to present a visual ordering system which will revolutionize the entire Materials Managements sector. It is now possible, for the first time, to transfer filling level, quantity and information of articles automatically to the inventory management system via integrated camera using RFID technology on a bin level. This means that not only is consumer-controlled supply of small parts for production requirements possible on a just-in-time basis, but C-Part supply is also executed by real time transfer via image format: simply iNTELLIGENT!

T +49 7931 91-1153
F +49 7931 91-51153
www.wuerth-industrie.com
Stephanie.Kozany@wuerth-industrie.com

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Originally the two-bin Kanban system was applied, in which transfer of order data was executed via hand scanner. In 2011 automation of classical Kanban systems was implemented with the introduction of data transfer via RFID (Radio Frequency Identification). By placing an empty bin on an intelligent modular base or a pallet bin, re-orders can be triggered.

The innovative iBin goes one step further

It enables new, individual opportunities as well as a transparent view of the inside of the bin – related to any individual piece. While up to now the empty bin triggers an order, the iBin sets new standards as a future-oriented, intelligent system: in future the iBin monitors the stocks inside the bin itself and triggers a respective order.

Visual System for fully automatic Triggering of Orders

The iBin is the first module on the market ready for serial production which uses an integrated camera for automatic triggering of orders in Materials Management. As such, this intelligent system has provides transparency of the bin content of key accounts. By means of regular visual inspection and the integrated counting function, stocks can be identified punctually and precisely in terms of pieces after individual articles have been analyzed. The type of article and surface are clearly identifiable as a result of these functions. All data collected are continuously transferred to the Materials Management system of Würth Industrie Service. This is followed by an analysis of consumption and

statistical documentation: this ensures that stocks are in focus!

Greatest possible Supply Reliability

At Würth Industrie Service, the C-Parts system partner, everything involves the supply reliability of C-parts. Having small parts available such as nuts or screws in the correct quality, the right quantity at the right time and the right place with maximum supply reliability: this is an automatic process at Würth Industrie Service. Based on the stocks data provided, the iBin triggers precise and automatic re-ordering of C-Parts. Without any manual intervention, data is forwarded directly to the Materials Management system of Würth Industrie Service, checked, and the logistics process is started. As a result of the fact that the iBin identifies the remaining stocks in the bins, early reaction can be initiated to any requirement peaks and deviations. This includes the opportunity of immediate recording of unscheduled orders for special requirements.

Maximum System Flexibility

The flexible structure of the bins ensures that the iBin can be easily integrated into all systems of customers as well as all conventional bin sizes in accordance with VDA standards. Staff at Würth Industrie Service simply insert the module into the socket of the bin. The iBin is an autarkik system and can therefore be applied in the plants of customers without any alteration of existing processes or conversion of infrastructure. This means the iBin can be used irrespective of location and place of work. Network connection supplied by the customer is not required. However, on request, easy integration is possible.

Ideal Warehouse Utilization

A wide range of C-Parts for production requires appropriate warehousing. Production halls are often congested with shelves and storage utilization is inefficient. This often results in disturbance to the process flow. The intelligent technology of iBins enables consumption-related, individual and accurate material planning and thus ideal warehouse utilization and reduction of stocks which results in less capital being tied up.

Vision

Numerous developments relating to iBin technology are planned in the future. A detailed calculation of stocks in the bin and clear identification of articles,

including dimension, will be possible in future. In addition to integration of C-Parts in the Kanban system, other product groups such as A/B parts and external parts can also be monitored and handled. Monitoring of consumption process and behaviour of an article, location and cost centre level is also planned. This will provide valuable findings, especially in the starting phase of the project. Material planning can be controlled more exactly and the article range can be planned more efficiently. As a result of continuous data transfer of the iBin, the customer will be able to execute an inventory at the push of a button. The extreme flexibility of the iBin module enables use of the system in complete independence of the bin.

An immense amount of development work has gone into this completely new type of bin. The iBin is a co-development of Würth Elektronik ICS GmbH & Co. KG and Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG and illustrates the dynamic and innovative power of the Würth Group companies at a unique, high level.

This technology not only revolutionizes C-Part management, but is of immense importance for the entire industry and its value chain including Purchasing, Materials Management and Logistics.

Captions:

Image 1: iBin - Bestände im Blick.tif

Caption 1: iBin - Stocks in focus

Image 2: iBin - Was die Technik leistet.jpg

Caption 2: iBin - What technology achieves

Image 3: Maximale Flexibilität - Leicht integrierbar in jeden Behälter.jpg

Caption 3: Maximum flexibility - can be easily integrated in any bin

Image 4: Maximale Flexibilität - Kompatibel für gängige Behältergrößen.jpg

Caption 4: Maximum flexibility - Compatible for conventional bin sizes

Image sources: Archiv Würth Industrie Service