



## Real-time traceability at Entremont Fromager with the Dolphin RF mobile computers from Honeywell

### Overview

**Industry –**  
Food

**Application –**  
Real time information system

**Product Solution –**  
Mobile Computers  
Dolphin® RF

In its industrial packaging sites, Entremont Fromager has introduced a new supply chain traceability system for monitoring goods flows in real time. The system combines a software solution developed by KLS with Dolphin radio frequency terminals from Honeywell, supplied by CEMI. With an established market worldwide, Entremont Fromager's main business is the production, maturing and packaging of French Emmental and AOC cheeses (Comté and Beaufort). The company is known for its Entremont, Meule d'Or and Juragruyère brands, which consumers can find in supermarkets, hypermarkets and catering outlets.

At the beginning of 2002, Entremont Fromager decided to rationalize its supply chain management by launching a SCM project implemented via its SAP ERP (enterprise resource planning). A sub-project, entitled «Traceability of finished and semi-finished products», was conducted at the same time as the study. It led to the overhaul and standardisation of the traceability system at all sites, together with the choice of a LES (Logistic Execution System) solution covering all "supply chain traceability" functions. Eric Goddet, IT project manager at Entremont Fromager and responsible for the project, describes the sequence of events.

The aim of the «Traceability of finished and semi-finished products» project was to provide a new real-time information system for the lifespan of products throughout the supply cycle. *“Changing to a centralized solution for real-time data management was a priority for us,”* explains Mr. Goddet, *“since our old traceability system was manual and based on the use of paper documents, with all the lack of reactivity entailed. We wanted to reach a solution ensuring perfect consistency between the physical flow and the information flow.”*

## Selection of mobile computers by users.

A two-day demonstration in the presence of the main equipment suppliers selected was organised. *"In view of the specification criteria, we proposed the RF version of the Dolphin mobile computers from Honeywell,"* says Claude Halimi, General Manager of CEMI and Honeywell Business Solution Partner.

During the demonstrations, the supply chain managers from Entremont Fromager's production sites tested the devices. *"Their opinion as users is the most objective,"* says Eric Goddet, *"they were immediately attracted by the Dolphins' practical aspects, such as their ergonomic design and large backlit screen."*

In summer 2002, the complete supply chain traceability solution was therefore finalised. It consists of the Gildas WM software by KLS and the Dolphin RF mobile computers by Honeywell.

## Real-time monitoring at each stage of production.

Early into the supply chain are the Dairies, in which milk is transformed into whole cheeses. These whole cheeses are then transferred to the production plants, called Packaging Sites, before being dispatched to customers.

The Dolphin RF terminals are used at these Packaging sites to identify and track the logistic units throughout the supply process. All the stages, from reception through to dispatch, are declared in real time using the Dolphin mobile computers, providing cutting-edge control of stock management and preparation progress. Stock discrepancies and preparation errors are now marginal. The keywords are "performance and reliability".

### For more information visit:

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## The choice of Dolphin - a stake in the technological future.

The Dolphin RF terminals by Honeywell feature two technological characteristics, which also played a significant role in Entremont Fromager's choice: their capacity to read 2D codes and their operation in a Windows® CE environment. *"Our specifications did not take account of these two technological aspects"* says Mr. Goddet, *"but these advantages proved very useful to us, especially since two years ago Honeywell was one of the only manufacturers to offer them."* Entremont Fromager actually uses Datamatrix codes designed for internal use on its pallets, in addition to EAN 128 barcodes. The Imager, which is fitted to the mobile computers for capturing data, is essential for reading bidimensional barcodes, such as the Datamatrix codes. In addition, the «Traceability of finished and semi-finished products» system runs in a Windows® CE environment in terminal/server mode. The Dolphins, which run on this platform, can therefore be interchanged easily, quickly and with full transparency, since the application is not resident on the terminal.

## Gradual, successful deployment.

Between October 2002 and October 2003, seven Entremont Fromager production sites (six in France and one in Italy) integrated the new «Traceability of finished and semi-finished products» system, with a total installed base of 50 Dolphin RF terminals. The last, in Germany, was equipped at the beginning of 2005.

*"In October 2002, we set up two pilot sites with different types of workflow,"* explains Mr. Goddet, *"so as to validate the solution in both cases."* Deployment at the other sites took place during the first quarter of 2003. For each site, Entremont Fromager set up a dual operation, combining paper



traceability with pallet flashing, so that the teams could get used to the new system.

*"Migration from the old system to the new system took one weekend. The stabilization period for the entire supply chain management project was very quick, between 3 and 6 months,"* declares Mr. Goddet.

## A strong partnership with CEMI and Honeywell.

CEMI put its skills and experience to good use by conducting a brief study of Entremont Fromager's sites before installing the Wi-Fi terminals and integrating the Dolphins into the radiofrequency network. *"We are very familiar with Dolphin mobile computers,"* explains Claude Halimi, *"since we have been working with Honeywell for nearly 20 years. We are also an approved European maintenance centre."*

Eric Goddet concludes, *"This project has been a genuine success. We have signed a frame contract with CEMI, which means that in the future, we shall certainly be calling on them, and therefore on Honeywell, for similar services."*

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