



Dolphins Handle Snow Removal at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport

Thanks to Purple Oak and HHP, Standard Parking now has help removing snow at the nation's busiest airport, O'Hare International, in Chicago, IL.

Standard Parking manages all parking lots for O'Hare, which includes clearing snow from the lots. Because O'Hare Airport leases much of its snow removal equipment from contractors, Standard Parking needed a system that would allow them to track the delivery and return of snow removal equipment, record where the equipment was being used, and print acknowledgement receipts indicating proof of delivery and pickup for the equipment contractors.



Standard Parking originally used "brick and stick" tethered scanners to track equipment. However, they experienced problems with equipment durability in the cold, wet weather. In addition, the system did not perform any data verification, and could not produce printed receipts for the drivers, which also resulted in significant administrative time correcting invalid entries and reconciling billing discrepancies with contractors.

"We needed a system that would do the administrative work for us," said Rich Bolgioni, Assistant General Manager of Maintenance at Standard Parking. "I was spending a lot of time reconciling data errors and dealing with equipment malfunctions."

Bolgioni met with Purple Oak, Inc., providers of bar code and RF data collection solutions, to discuss a way to solve his problem. According to Joe DeCarlo, Purple Oak CEO, "Standard Parking was facing the same data collection problems that most of our customers are trying to solve – durability, ruggedness, efficiency, and accuracy."



After evaluating the requirements, Purple Oak designed custom equipment tracking software to meet Standard Parking's specifications, and recommended Dolphin 7200 hand-held computers and portable printers manufactured by HHP, the global leader in image-based data collection.

"We are very confident in the quality of HHP's products," said DeCarlo. We discussed several alternatives with the customer, and they were impressed with how well the HHP solution fit their needs."

Field personnel carry Dolphins, along with portable printers clipped to their belt. As snow removal equipment arrives, it is scanned, and an acknowledgement receipt is printed and given to the driver. The equipment is scanned as it moves from lot to lot, and idle time is recorded. When the equipment is returned, the system generates a return acknowledgement receipt.

"Now I can call out to a lot any time and find out exactly how much and what types of equipment are in use," says Bolgioni. "In addition, if we receive a new piece of equipment without a bar code, we can add that equipment on the spot."

At the end of a shift, the Dolphin generates a duplicate listing of receipts for all equipment used during the shift, and the data is transferred to Standard Parking's master database for processing and printing management reports.

"Between the receipts and the reports, we are able to provide contractors with all the documentation necessary for billing," states Bolgioni. "If it's possible, Purple Oak and HHP have helped make the Chicago winter a little easier to bear!"



Purple Oak, Inc. designs bar code and RF solutions for data collection problems in manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, and corporate business operations nationwide. Purple Oak customers range from Fortune 500 companies to small local businesses desiring to improve the efficiency and accuracy of their data collection operations in all applications. Founded in 1996, Purple Oak is a privately held company headquartered in Morton Grove, IL. For more information, contact Purple Oak at 847-699-9630 or visit www.purpleoak.com.