



aerospace case study >>>



Safety is paramount in aerospace and vending

Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows is a market leader in the design and manufacture of precision engineered metallic bellows for industrial fluid control and aerospace applications. They provide engineering solutions for Airbus aircraft programmes, defence, land vehicle and energy markets.



David Armitage is Health & Safety and Environment Officer at Senior Aerospace, Bird Bellows, Congleton, Cheshire. His workplace responsibilities include managing employee PPE and during an in-house expense reduction analysis he examined the stores issuing procedures. An online search for vending systems led David to request a demonstration from QUICKVEND Systems, Tewkesbury.

The VersaoLift machine is well engineered, caters for a wide range of items and provides remote monitoring of all stock and its consumption

QUICKVEND offer a wide range of systems including cabinets with helix or lift/delivery mechanisms, lockers and temperature controlled units. The ideal solution for Senior Aerospace was the QUICKVEND VersaoLift. These clear-fronted, illuminated cabinets display rows of items packaged in reusable plastic containers using the FIFO (first in, first out) method to optimise shelf life and stock rotation. An opening door enables quick and easy replenishment.

Key card access and item selection is simple. Items are securely delivered from a numbered shelf location to a retrieval point by a collect, lift and place

mechanism. All transactions are recorded in an easy-access online audit report. Empty containers are placed in a receptacle alongside the machine for re-use.

David said, 'The VersaoLift was chosen because it is well engineered, caters for a wide range of items, is illuminated for high product visibility and is easy to use. Most importantly the excellent software package provides me with live remote monitoring and recording of all stocked products, individual users and individual consumption.'

Two machines were installed, one for each manufacturing unit on the Congleton site. A network link was set-up, and the machines positioned, stocked and plugged into a 13 amp socket. Each VersaoLift stocks a range of PPE and small production tools including lathe tool inserts and drills. PPE and tooling is supervised and issued by a Senior Team Leader.

'We are very pleased with this method of stocking our PPE items and tooling', said David. 'Previously it took our store personnel over 2 hours a week to audit and replenish stock. This is now valuable time saved.'

The company's PPE supplier has access to the audited reports and replenishes the cabinets to ensure no stock-outs, maintaining operator safety. Regular meetings take place between David and the PPE supplier to review stocked items and trial new ones.

A total of 215 operatives have 24 hour a day access to both machines for their PPE. The company issues dual-purpose clock cards as key cards to eliminate loss of an additional card that would restrict access to PPE. Operative training takes minutes using the clock card and a keypad to demonstrate how to gain cabinet access and identify the required item. Senior Aerospace use the ability to programme some cards and restrict general access to items like tooling.

David and a colleague study the audit reports and talk to operatives about correct PPE use, underuse and occasionally overuse. 'Operatives have no objection to the accountability aspects of vending', said David, 'after all, it is paramount for them to have access to and use the right PPE for each operation. The 24 hour availability means less incidents, more efficiency and greater productivity.'

Using QUICKVEND equipment has reduced walk and wait times by 18 hours a month, and resulted in a 60% saving on PPE

Each cabinet is sited on a major shop floor walkway resulting in a saving of up to 18 hours a month in walk and wait times. A substantial saving of 60% has been made on the value of PPE in the past year, and it is estimated that a further saving of £1500 has been made on the issue of lathe tips and drill bits. David commented, 'The savings to date have more than justified the QUICKVEND installations. I am keen to apply this solution and system to other areas of our business.'

David chose the right kit from QUICKVEND, with the best options for Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows. His decision has proved a great success for cost-down, decreasing downtime and compliance with H&S legislation at work.

QUICKVEND offer a number of lease acquisition or purchase options as well as low maintenance and support costs. Data access options include manual infrared download, remote GSM, remote wireless or via the internet. Temperature controlled units are ideal for aerosols and extending the life of specialist products.

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