

## In This Issue

- *Reduce Costs & Increase Utilisation of Remote Plant & Equipment*
- *Outsourcing specialist expertise and resource is on the increase*

## Supply Chain Matters Useful Links. . . . .

### [Inventory Optimisation](#)

*Companies should always endeavour to undertake the widest review possible to ensure elements of inventory processes are not 'sub-optimised'. This requires developing solutions for all areas of inventory management including strategy development, stock location, handling processes, demand forecasting . . . . .*

[Min / Max Inventory Calculator – Free Excel Download - Click Here](#)

### [Business Modelling & Data Analysis](#)

*As system driven processes have increased in the last 2 decades, so to has data availability, often to unmanageable levels. Whilst, from a management perspective, it's . . . . .*

[Supply Chain Management](#)  
*Managing the supply chain is*

## Reduce Costs & Increase Utilisation of Remote Plant & Equipment “Sounds Great - but How?”

The location and condition of plant and maintenance equipment, when not managed correctly, can have serious negative effects on work rates, productivity, job costs and overall profits to any business carrying out multi site engineering and maintenance operations.

For example companies often have a fleet of maintenance and plant equipment which can be moved on a regular basis to new locations while the team of maintenance engineers are dispatched on a daily basis from different geographic locations. Problems can arise if the equipment's last location is not correctly recorded or it needs refuelling or special servicing. Not having the right equipment at the right time can be highly disruptive and result in wasted time increased costs.

An easy to implement and cost effective solution to this issue has been developed by an Oxfordshire based asset management system development company **OxLoc**, in conjunction with **TomTom Work**. The user can now connect the location and condition of remote equipment with service and maintenance people on the road. Location and condition of remote equipment is monitored using the **OxLoc Asset Alert**, an autonomous GPS/GPRS product with a battery life in excess of 3 years, making it ideal for the management and control of remote plant and equipment.

This information is sent to **TomTom Webfleet**, a real time vehicle management application which connects with vehicles fitted with the award winning **TomTom Go** smart navigation and communication product. At the start of a working day location of the maintenance equipment is sent from Asset Alert to **TomTom Webfleet**. Each engineer is sent their specific job list for that day along with location of the equipment. Once accepted the engineer is routed to the equipment avoiding reporting to the office each day. Automatic alerting from remote equipment, such as low fuel, allows equipment to be fuelled before the engineers arrive avoiding lost time and increased costs.



**Keith Dobson, CEO of OxLoc, commented:** “Some of the advantages include allocating nearest or most appropriate drivers to remote equipment resulting in reduced travel times and fuel costs. Drivers navigate straight to the correct place, knowing the equipment will be operational, making life easier and less stressful. Often equipment does not

*a competitive necessity in the global marketplace and can provide a key differentiator for increasingly empowered customers. Many companies leave . . . . .*

[Supply Chain Matters – Download Back Issues in PDF](#)

*Winter 2007 Edition – Feature Articles:- “New Product Development – The Crucial Investment “ & “ How Green is your Supply Chain?”*

*Autumn 2007 edition - Feature Articles: - “Sourcing from China – The Reality” & “Transatlantic Project Management”.*

### **Additional Links**

[Industry Specialists - Profiles](#)

[Case Studies & Examples](#)

[Free Downloads & White Papers](#)

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*have a long term power source which is the real advantage of monitoring location and condition with the OxLoc 3 to 5 year battery equipment. This combined with the award winning TomTom package provides business with new ways of reducing costs and improving utilisation”*

For further information on **OxLoc Asset Alert** contact Gideon Hillman on [gideon@hillman-consulting.com](mailto:gideon@hillman-consulting.com)

***“Outsourcing specialist expertise and resource is on the increase”*** -says Managing Partner, Gideon Hillman MILT, MIBC

Whilst outsourcing has always been prevalent in the logistics and supply chain sectors, there has been a marked increase in the requirements for specialist consultants over the last 6 to 12 months. This is not just due to economic slow down or uncertainty, making companies more cautious in employing permanent resource, but mainly due to the diversity, unique requirements and expectations of the modern supply chain. Never has so much attention been focused on taking cost out of all aspects of the supply chain as well as reducing the effects on the environment, whilst of course achieving higher levels of customer satisfaction.

With so many different aspects of the increasingly complex supply chain to consider, the number of specialist projects increase and it is not possible for one person within an organisation to have the skills and expertise to successfully optimise all of them.

Rather than employing a permanent team of staff to work on a few short to medium term projects, more and more companies are opting for the more flexible and cost effective approach of using sector specialist consultancies.

In the last 6 months Gideon Hillman Consulting has taken on many new clients including, Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions, Premier Foods, Cygnet Foods, OxLoc, Bradford Company and Principia as well as an increase in specialist project work for their existing clients such as Linpac Allibert, CoWin Global and others.

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