RFID TALK BLOG

EDUCATION IS FIRST STEP TO MAINSTREAMING RFID AT LOCKHEED MARTIN

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Lockheed Martin, a pioneer in the RFID market, is preparing to mainstream the use of RFID technology throughout the company. The giant defense contractor, which has used RFID in its supply chain and manufacturing operations since at least 2005, has **committed to educate hundreds of employees** through an online training program offered by **RFID Revolution**.

Lockheed Martin utilizes RFID for a number of tasks, including ensuring the authenticity of parts and subassemblies in its supply chain, tracking components for timely repair of customer equipment, and increasing the accuracy and safety of its missile defense systems.

Defense contractor Lockheed Martin is educating hundreds of employees on the basics of RFID technology.

"By improving visibility of objects and reducing human error through automation, RFID technology can positively impact a vast array of operations and products," said Denton Clark, corporate AIT manager for Lockheed. "With the data capture aspect of the technology maturing, companies like Lockheed can concentrate on processing the large volumes of data received from RFID systems, to make better business decisions."

The move to educate hundreds of employees from varied business units across the entire company signals a strong move to make RFID a widely accepted business solution at Lockheed Martin.

"Incorporating a new technology into operations can be disruptive," said Clark. "Lockheed turned to RFID Essentials to get hundreds of employees up to speed, so they feel comfortable. The more people understand, the more they can envision how to use RFID in our company and even across the industry. We need to take full advantage of our human capital in order to achieve our goal of mainstreaming RFID."

Leslie Downey, principal and founder of RFID Revolution, says that a good amount of fear still exists among all enterprises when it comes to new technologies, especially those with the game-changing capabilities of RFID. She says there is also a good amount of "tunnel vision" when it comes to spreading RFID learnings from pilot projects.

"Many times project leaders acquire a strong knowledge of RFID but don't have the time to educate the others on the project team," says Downey. "That results in people developing a very narrow vision of what RFID can actually do within their company."

Downey says that the average person takes about eight hours to complete the course, which is designed to help professionals understand the technology, how to apply it, how to measure the return on investment, and how to identify the most promising applications in their enterprise.