

ADVERTISEMENT

**Until you can manage your ass**

Home Topics Blogs Magazines Newsletters Resource Center Events Webc

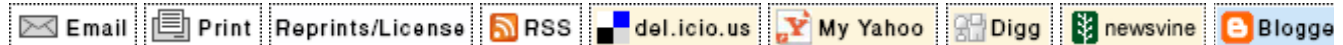
POWERED BY



SEARCH

FREE

## STORY TOOLS



## Going green and mobile with RFID

**Savi Technologies installed solar-powered RFID readers for the DOD, saving power and enabling data collection in more places than ever.**

*By Bob Trebilcock, Editor at Large -- Modern Materials Handling, 11/29/2007*

There's a lot of talk these days about the **green supply chain**. Materials handling and logistics professionals are not only looking for ways to optimize their operations, but also to make them more energy efficient and eco-friendly.

There's also talk about **mobility**—that is, the adoption of technologies like RFID, wireless **sensors**, and cellular networks to collect more information at more points in the supply chain than ever before.

That's why a press release from **Savi Technology** last week caught my eye. Savi is best known as a provider of RFID-based **asset tracking** solutions, especially for the **Department of Defense**. That's the mobility angle.

But the company's most recent deployment involved the installation of solar-powered RFID readers at a major U.S. Army supply facility in Kuwait. That's the green angle.

In fact, the installation represents a convergence of both trends. "Solar energy provides an energy-efficient and environmentally friendly power source for RFID hardware," says David Stephens, Savi's general manager of the Americas. "The Army also wanted broader access to information used to make strategic decisions."

Using solar power eliminates the need to install an electrical infrastructure in remote areas where there is no reader

### RELATED ARTICLES

- [Overcoming technological stereotypes](#)
- [Real-time location systems growing in use](#)
- [Tracking mobile assets with RTLS](#)
- [Using RFID for real-time visibility across the sup](#)
- [RFID item-level tagging takes a step forward](#)

### SPONSORED LINKS

#### RELATED LINKS FROM INDUSTRY LEADERS

**DEMATIC** : Quick Tag is a cost effective and eff method to implement RFID within your current s operations

**LXE Inc.** : RFID is a cost-effective resource for : time, improving visibility and reducing labor req for shipping, receiving and inventory managem operations

**BMH** : Have you been affected by the RFID rev Contact us to commission a pilot RFID program expertise to work for you

**RedPrairie** : Use our RFID enabled mobile asse management system to increase efficiency and regulatory compliance

[More Relate](#)

BLOGS TALKBACK WEBCASTS

infrastructure or power grid. As Stephens points out, there's plenty of sunshine in the desert.

## How does it work?

The forward location in Southeast Asia is used by the Army to position supplies and equipment needed by the troops at a remote location in Afghanistan. Savi mounted the solar-powered RFID readers on poles at the facility. The readers activate RFID tags attached to vehicles or pieces of equipment as they enter or leave the facility. The readers can communicate to a local server, or over the DoD's satellite network to one of four central servers.

## Commercial applications

While this deployment is for the military, Stephens says Savi is also working on commercial applications for solar-powered RFID technology. Emprevi Ltda, a Colombia-based provider of logistics and security services for major importers and exporters, is using the technology at strategic checkpoints, including factories and port facilities, to monitor in-transit goods manufactured in and exported from Colombia.

"As end users look to collect more information at more nodes in the supply chain, I think we're going to see more applications pop up," says Stephens. "If you don't have power, it doesn't matter."



## TALKBACK

» [SUBMIT FEEDBACK](#)

There are no comments posted for this article.

## SPONSORED LINKS



### Who's getting one?

The Plum Card. The first everything, everywhere trade terms card from American Express OPEN.™ Up to 2% early pay discount or up to 2 months defer pay, interest free. Terms and Conditions Apply. Application available now at [PlumCard.com](http://PlumCard.com).

Advertisement

*Until you can  
manage your  
assets with  
ESP*

## ALSO BY THIS AUTHOR...

[Shifting demographics, slowing economy prese for materials handling industry](#)

[On-Demand software comes of age](#)

[Going mobile with sensors](#)

[A lump of coal in the RFID stocking](#)

[Use your labor management system to get labor](#)

» [MORE](#)

[About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertising Info](#) | [Site Map](#) | [FREE Subscriptions](#) | |

© 2007 [Reed Business Information](#), a division of [Reed Elsevier Inc.](#) All right:

---

Use of this Web site is subject to its [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

---

**Please visit these other Reed Business sites**

---

**Media & Publishing:**

Broadcasting & Cable | ContentAgenda | LA 411 | Library Journal | Multichannel News | New York 411 | Publishers Weekly | School Library Journal | Críticas | Tradeshow Week | Variety | Video Business

**Business & Printing:**

Converting | DM2-DecisionMaker | Expert Business Source | Graphic Arts Blue Book | Graphic Arts Monthly | Hot Frog USA | Packaging Digest | The Industry Measure | Tracom Group | Zibb

**Manufacturing:**

Control Engineering | Design News | Industrial Distribution | Logistics Management | Kellysearch | Manufacturing Business Technology | Modern Materials Handling | Plant Engineering | Purchasing | Purchasing Data | Supply Chain Management Review

**Gifts & Furnishings:**

Casual Living | Furniture Today | Gifts & Decorative Accessories | Home Textiles Today | Home Accents Today | Jewelers' Circular Keystone | Kids Today | Playthings

**Hospitality:**

Chain Leader | Foodservice Equipment & Supplies | Hotels | R&I