

RTS WRIGHT-ROBOTICS LOOK MA...NO HANDS!



FARGO APPLICATION STORY

RTS WRIGHT ROBOTICS WORK CELL INCORPORATES DTC500 IN DEMONSTRATION

The Viper 2000 flexible work cell by RTS Wright – using a FARGO DTC500 Series Printer/Encoder as part of a robotics demonstration at trade shows – is one of the more unusual applications of a FARGO Card Personalization System.

First unveiled at the Assembly Technology Expo in October 2001, the Viper 2000 flexible work cell was programmed to turn a business card into a giveaway luggage tag for Expo guests. A client places his or her business card on a small platform, and the first of three robotic arms slides the card under a camera, where it is photographed.

A second robotic arm grabs the business card, turns it around and places it onto a moving shuttle platform. A FARGO printer/encoder now has processed the card, which had been preprinted on the back with information from RTS Wright. At this point, a third robotic arm picks up the finished card and drops it into a chute, where it slides down to a sales person, who punches a hole in it and presents it to the customer as a luggage tag. The original business card moves down another chute, where it is picked up by RTS Wright for sales follow-up.

The entire process takes 30 seconds, with a computer screen identifying the card's location at each point along the way. A picture of a FARGO Card Personalization System, for example, is shown while the card is being printed.

“We wrote Visual Basic code to grab the image from Frame Grabber software and load it to Microsoft Photo Editor, which then crops the image and saves it as a .jpg file,” said Ed Lusky, controls engineer, RTS Wright.

“RTS Wright had to write an enormous amount of computer code to facilitate the robotic movement,” said Mike Chapman, an identification specialist at Beeler Impression, a FARGO Solutions Provider, “but the only modification to the FARGO printer was the addition of a slide to the card's exit process to redirect the finished product.”

“RTS Wright uses a FARGO printer in its corporate office to produce employee identification cards,” Chapman said. “Managers were familiar with the printer's capabilities and knew it would be a perfect product for this unusual application.”

The Viper 2000 has generated tremendous interest, according to Lusky, who credits Chapman with an enormous amount of help. “Mike made it real easy,” he said, “by making local connections for us. He went above and beyond the expected and raised my confidence level.”

Chapman was pleased to have a small part in such a unique application of a FARGO printer/encoder. He said, “We probably will never see the DTC500 used this way again.”

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