



PRESS INFORMATION

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For Immediate Release

Taking Steps To Reduce Maintenance Costs & Improve Safety

London Underground has awarded CoreRFID Ltd a contract to supply a system that will help manage maintenance on 200 escalators on the network.

Under the contract, CoreRFID are providing radio frequency identification (RFID) tags for over 30,000 escalator steps and the readers to be used for escalator inspection. CoreRFID is also developing the software application for the readers and is training service staff to install the tags and operate the readers. London Underground will use the system to decide which escalator steps need to be removed from escalators and checked for possible fatigue.

Escalator steps need to be tested regularly in order to guard against the risk of failure. This is particularly important on the London Underground where 3 million people every day use the system. Previously, checking which steps needed testing was time consuming. Escalators had to be stopped and then inched forward, one step at a time. Now, by adding electronic tags to each step, the identity of each individual step can be read in one cycle, while the escalator is in normal service.

CoreRFID proved their capability in a trial installation in 2008 on an escalator at St Paul's Underground station which demonstrated that tags could be attached, encoded, and read reliably in a real-life environment.

“We are delighted to be working with London Underground,” says CoreRFID’s Managing Director, Mike Maughan. “RFID based solutions in asset management and maintenance can often provide a rapid return on investment. This project shows how close working between supplier and customer during a pilot implementation can provide a sound basis for a successful roll-out.”

CoreRFID are using Confidex ultra-high frequency RFID tags to provide the escalator tagging component of the project.

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Notes for Editors

About CoreRFID Ltd.

Over the last 15 years CoreRFID Ltd has established a prominent reputation in the global RFID industry for delivering innovative products and services that help its customers to deliver successful solutions.

With bases in the US, UK and Europe, CoreRFID is now working on some of the most advanced RFID projects, delivering RFID technologies often in short timescales. CoreRFID customers include the BBC, Capita, Nokia, BAA, Thames Water, the Channel Tunnel, Norwich Union, Galliford Morgan and Amec.

CoreRFID was formerly known as Mannings RFID, part of the Mannings engineering group. In July 2007 the Mannings RFID management team successfully completed a management buyout from Mannings UK to create a business exclusively focused on the needs of RFID technology users. CoreRFID retains all the staff, know-how and intellectual property of the Mannings RFID business. The CoreRFID team of experienced engineers and its sales and administration centre is based in Warrington, in the North West of England.

CoreRFID is backed by Enterprise Ventures and NatWest Bank.

About the use of RFID

Radio frequency identification is widely used to help track, trace audit and control items by allowing computer systems to read details of tags attached to stock, assets or other items. RFID is used for applications such as:

- Keeping track of stock as it moves from manufacturer to warehouse to shipping agent to retail outlet to customer.
- Providing travellers with tickets that register each journey as it is made.
- Identifying livestock to ensure traceability of food, to prevent theft or to help lost animals to be reunited with their owners.
- Providing access control and checking who enters premises and when.

The wide range of different types of tags with widely different data handling capabilities and reading characteristics means users of RFID systems need to make careful technology choices to create successful applications. CoreRFID specialises in helping customers to make these choices.