

Datamax Intelligent Printers Assist Automotive Suppliers



Suppliers to car manufacturers need to make sure their parts are labeled correctly and that the labeling process is efficient and cost-effective. Without a proper solution, they run the risk of losing important automotive contracts. One of these suppliers was looking for an appropriate solution to their part-marking problem. In order to improve the efficiency of their operations and to provide better service to their customers, the company had several criteria to meet.

Requirements of the system included: Real time part marking for production tracking and lot traceability; the ability to add serial numbers to the labels; a bar code on the label for tracking purposes; the ability to interface with an ERP system; the ability to identify the operator who made the part and applied the label.

General Data Company, an authorized Datamax reseller located in Cincinnati, Ohio, provided a solution to this supplier. General Data immediately realized that this was the perfect scenario for a Datamax intelligent printing solution. An intelligent solution would allow data collection applications to run inside the Datamax printer, without the need of instructions from a host device, such as a computer.



As an authorized Datamax/MCL reseller, General Data installed MCL-enabled I-Class printers with the real time clock option. These printers were connected to the programmable

logic controller (PLC) that was placed at each printer being used to label parts. The printers were able to take a signal from the PLC when a part was completed and then automatically print a label.

The reliability of the Datamax solution was an important feature as it was imperative that all signals from the PLC were received. The application also required minimal user interaction, and with the Datamax solution, the only time the operator would need to interact with the printer would be to reprint a label.

After installation, the supplier immediately realized the benefits of the Datamax solution. They were able to determine exactly how many parts had been produced since the time the printer was connected. Pre-printed labels no longer had to be filled out by hand, saving the machine operators a great deal of time. There was no longer a need for a PC on the manufacturing floor, which would not survive as well in a dirty, rugged industrial environment, while the space the PC previously occupied was now available for other things. By using DMXConnect, they were able to connect to their ERP system through their network to provide real time production information.



GeneralData

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For more information on MCL-enabled Datamax intelligent printing solutions, contact us at +1 407 578 8007, or toll free at 800 816 9649.

