



Industry
Solar

Customer Profile

1st Solar is gearing up to supply the lowest cost solar photovoltaic panels in the industry. They plan on growing through operational excellence in their manufacturing processes.

Business Situation

1st Solar is making noise in it's industry. They are trying to maintain its pace of increasing capacity at world wide locations while driving down the cost of its product.

Vision, Value, Innovation

Durable RFID tags from Datalogic uniquely identify each product that is in the manufacturing process while the Cobalt RFID reader systems feeds the tag data into a MES WIP (Work-in-Process) control system for 100% control and traceability of 1st Solar's WIP.

RFID helps 1st Solar Crank Down the Cost and Ramp Up the Volume

The manufacturing leader in the solar field is driving down their production costs by using Datalogic RFID.

THE CHALLENGE

1st Solar is ramping production at an astonishing pace with production growing from 210 megawatt in 2007 to 480 megawatts in 2009. It is not surprising that they are focused on operational excellence leading to their position as the low cost producer of solar PV panels.



They needed a cost effective tracking solution that could withstand high temperatures, yet still be able to operate in a cleanroom.

THE SOLUTION

The high performance Industrial Ethernet networked Cobalt HF-IND Controller paired with a 2020 HF Antenna and the durable LRP250 S-Series tag was the perfect fit for the cleanroom environment of the Solar industry. The implementation is cost effective and the maintenance is minimal.

THE RESULT

1st Solar has been able to increase their manufacturing output and their capacity has increased as well. This pace is achieved smoothly as Datalogic RFID products keep up with their tracking and production needs.