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## Nexess Integrates Multiple RFID Tool-Tracking Systems Into Single Offering

Designed for the nuclear, oil and gas, and aerospace industries, the unified solution consists of smart counters and cabinets and a mobile application, all managed on a single software platform.

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May 24, 2013 After four years of selling its radio frequency identification technology for tracking tools, assets and regulated products at nuclear facilities, as well as in the oil and gas and aerospace companies, French industrial safety management technology firm **Nexess** is developing a single solution that incorporates three separate RFID modules that it has previously offered. The new system, known as the NexCap Tool Tracking Solution, will incorporate a smart counter that reads tags and weighs tools as they are retrieved and returned, a smart cabinet that provides tools to users without requiring human intervention, and a PDA-based RFID solution to search for items in use or missing within a facility. The new solution will feature a single software platform to manage data culled from all three modules, says Olivier Rouault, Nexess' product manager. In addition, the company plans to begin offering a retrofitting service for customers who wish to embed or attach RFID tags to their existing tools.

This year, Nexess began partnering with **Desoutter Industrial Tools**, which is now embedding tags in all new tools that it manufactures, and will aid Nexess in the retrofitting of existing tools with RFID tags for Nexess' customers. Tag manufacturer **Xerafy** is providing its EPC Gen 2 on-metal passive ultrahigh-frequency (UHF) tags for use in the tools, while Nexess is working with several reader providers for its solution. German company **Feig Electronic** provides approximately 80 percent of the readers built into the NexCap smart cabinet and smart counter systems, while most of the RFID-enabled PDAs are supplied by **Psion**. What's more, Nexess has begun offering **Embisphère** Bluetooth-enabled EmbiVentory readers to enable users to track goods and receive data on a tablet or laptop via the Bluetooth connection.



Nexess' smart counter system consists of a touchscreen, an RFID reader and a weight scale.

In 2008, Nexess was spun off from French power company **Electricité de France (EDF)**. Initially, EDF was the firm's primary customer, using Nexess' RFID-based solutions at all 19 of its French nuclear power plants, for a total of 58 reactors. Each plant is employing at least one of Nexess' NexCap modules, and some of the facilities are also utilizing Nexess' RFID systems to track personnel as they enter or leave a reactor area during maintenance, via readers installed at entrances and exits to interrogate RFID tags built into the users' ID badges.

Nexess also provides its tool-tracking technology to other operators of nuclear power plants, as well as to the oil and gas industry (for tracking the use and maintenance of equipment employed for drilling or other operations) and aerospace (primarily to track the distribution of tools loaned to personnel).