

Boston Scientific medical device factory asset tracking

Daire Joyce, Boston Scientific Clonmel, daire.joyce@bsci.com;

Mike Hayes, Tyndall; Aldo Romani, IUNET; Andrea Ingenito, CSEM.

ABSTRACT: Boston Scientific is dedicated to transforming lives through innovative medical solutions that improve the health of patients around the world. BSC Clonmel has ~€22M of WIP inventory, much of which is high value material/devices in the production process; they can become misplaced mainly through human error/intervention and experience bottlenecks and disruptions. LoLiPoP-IoT will provide seamless wireless tracking tags with automated alerts associated with unauthorised or unusual activity and a mechanism to identify real-time location information when necessary. This will reduce costs associated with mismanagement of high value pulse generators.

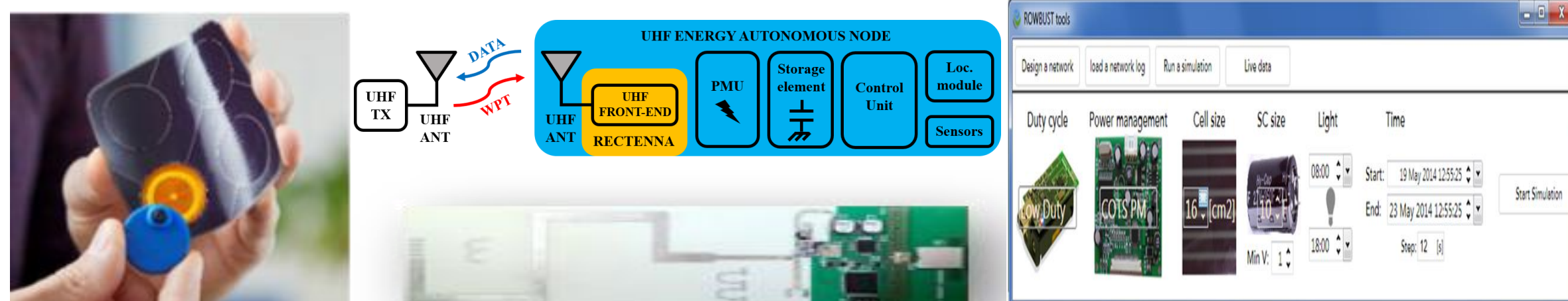
Challenges with Asset Traceability at BSC

- No indicators for idle WIP
- Production material location marked incorrectly
- Significant burden receiving materials/deliveries
- Paper-based tracking for moisture-sensitive components
- Missing instruments due for calibration
- Tools and parts becoming misplaced

Tech platforms/Goals

Hybrid PV/ wireless power transfer powered tags with context awareness

- Energy harvesting transducers (CSEM) & micro-power management technology (UNIPG, TYNDALL)
- Ultra-low power components (UNIPG – discrete, TYNDALL – IC) & efficient algorithms
- Innovative architectures for wireless data collection (UNIPG – power management, antennae)
- Simulation models to optimise module selection, sizing and integration (Tyndall)
- Automated alerts & real-time location
- >5-year battery life



- Reduction in WIP
- Reduction of inventory
- Reduction of production cycle time
- Reduction in component scrap
- Reduction in battery replacement costs
- Reduction in lost/misplaced materials
- Reduction in time taken to find materials

- Drive down DIOH
- Prevent NPD program delays
- Improve material management and avoid scrap

Technology Details



Summary Statement

Reducing costs related to location of assets (supply, maintenance, transport) is worth €100ks per annum to BSC Clonmel; savings in direct and indirect costs, less time finding inventory, less frequent maintenance (changing batteries), optimization of industrial production and layouts of machinery. Optimising flow, management and throughput of assets will yield >10% savings in production, cycle time and inventory costs; from raw materials to finished good and equipment, identifying bottlenecks, by means of predictive maintenance and asset tracking. Reducing energy consumption & carbon footprint & electronic waste: LoLiPoP-IoT energy autonomous sensor nodes for IoT and Industry 4.0 based on multi-source harvester systems prolongs application lifetime by >50% and uses new harvester materials, recyclable substrates, saving 100s of k€.

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