

Codeway solutions boost logistics and retail performance of the fashion group **FCUK** with Datalogic Mobile

French Connection cuts distribution centre errors and saves 50% of critical task time in its stores

French Connection is a highly successful fashion group. Its four principal brands are FCUK, designer brand Nicole Farhi, TOAST and Great Plains.

The group has its own stores in the UK, Europe and North America, and supplies retailers, licensees and franchises around the world.

Stock management accuracy over 99%

In recent years, the Group has streamlined its stock management and distribution operations.

First, it replaced the Group's outdated, slow, error-prone manual pick ticket systems with in-house applications linked to the AS400 system.

Then, it looked for terminals to survive prolonged use in warehouses and read barcodes through plastic covers over the garments.

Codeway recommended the Datalogic Falcon® RF mobile computer with its comfortable form factor, multiple function key operations, and programmability for new applications.

After exhaustive tests, FCUK installed 200 Falcon™ mobile computers in its warehouses. A year later it moved the whole operation to a new distribution centre serving all of the UK and Europe.

The distribution centre now handles over 12½ million items every year, with the Falcon® scanning each item during picking and packing. Accuracy is now well over 99%, compared to 85% for the old manual system.



Instant action and information in the shops

Facing some tough challenges in its retail stores, FCUK commissioned Retail Business Solutions (RBS) to develop a

new point-of-sale system. Codeway was asked to work with RBS to supply mobile solutions for in-store applications such as:

- stock look-ups
- stock transfers
- stock takes
- cycle counts
- sale mark-downs

Each store now has 1 or 2 Datalogic Falcon® and Pegaso™ rugged PDAs. Accuracy and quality have greatly improved. The terminals have halved the time taken to complete sale mark-downs and all other critical tasks.

Promotions are now turned around much faster, and the staff can tell customers the price and availability of any item instantly.

Service

Doug Gardner, IT manager for FCUK, says “Over the years, we have built an excellent relationship with Codeway. The company has done a great job for us both in the UK and the US.”

“Codeway is always responsive, professional and quick to address any issues as soon as they arise. Combined with the ability to work closely with our software design suppliers, this company is our preferred supplier for our hardware needs.”

