

CASE STUDY | CREATING TRANSPARENCY IN HOSPITALS WITH RFID

An academic hospital in the Netherlands is using RFID technology from KATHREIN Solutions to reliably locate medical equipment and transparently track its condition and operational readiness. Following its successful implementation in the endoscopy department, the solution was expanded to include the tracking of patient samples and transport containers.

TRACKING THE LOCATION AND CONDITION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT



> **INDUSTRY** **Healthcare**

> **Key Benefits**

- Real-time overview of inventory
- Fast fulfillment processes
- Greater planning reliability and better capacity utilization
- Transparent shipping routes
- Significant, measurable time savings

> **KATHREIN PARTNER** **Opal Solutions GmbH**



> **KATHREIN PRODUCTS**

- RRU 1400 Reader
- MidRange 100° PRO Antennas
- SSMH 60° EDGE Antennas

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Jens Meyer, Project Manager, OPAL Solutions GmbH

Initial Situation

An academic hospital in the Netherlands faced the challenge of reliably tracking the location and condition of medical equipment. In the endoscopy department, managing the examination process was a time-consuming task.

Seeking to gain a better overview of these processes, the teaching hospital in the Netherlands approached a medical equipment company. Together with OPAL Solutions GmbH, they explored ways to use RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) to minimize the effort involved and thereby save time and money.

Solution and implementation

After extensive testing, the project team opted for RFID technology from KATHREIN Solutions. The deciding factors in favor of these products (both hardware and software) were their easy integration into the infrastructure and the excellent reading results achieved during the test setups.

After the test setups proved successful both within the project team and at the hospital, the IT department in the Netherlands proceeded to discreetly install antennas and readers at strategic locations. For example, at entrances and exits, inside cabinets, and near the elevators.

Using proprietary, customized software, the RFID tag readings provide reliable information on:

- the equipments location
- the equipments condition
- Operational readiness

Expanding RFID into everyday clinical practice

Following the successful integration of RFID into endoscopy, this system was adopted for use with patient specimens. These samples are transported in containers that are “paired”

with each other in the software via an RFID chip – that is, digitally linked. As a result, staff can see the location of these samples at any time, regardless of which building the containers are in.

Results

The introduction of RFID into daily hospital operations has significantly improved processes at the hospital. Employees benefit from:

- an overview of inventory available at any time
- faster provisioning processes
- greater planning reliability and improved capacity utilization
- transparent transport routes
- significant, measurable time savings

Following discussions with all hospital staff involved, the response was consistently positive, and hospital operations have improved.

Thanks to all the motivated and resourceful people involved, what began as an idea quickly became a first-of-its-kind initiative at the hospital, which has had a consistently positive impact on day-to-day hospital operations.

