

MSC INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CO.

New mobile carts with integrated power make receiving more efficient at industrial supplier MSC.

CUSTOMER

MSC is a leading value-added distributor of metalworking and maintenance and repair and operations (“MRO”) supplies.

WORKPLACE

MSC offers more than 1 million industrial products at its 5 customer fulfillment centers across North America.

PRODUCTS IN USE

PC Series workstations equipped with standard inverter/charger system and (2) 100 AH batteries.

Accessories include:

- Post mounted flat screen holder
- Slide-out printer shelf



CHALLENGE

The use of mobile carts in the receiving process is not new to MSC. Operations had previously developed prototype mobile carts using several old aluminum picking carts and configuring equipment (batteries, chargers, and inverters) that were carried from its industrial stock. It did not take long for MSC managers to realize expected gains in efficiency by processing receipts directly at the receiving docks. However, MSC soon realized it needed more durable carts to maintain the efficiency improvements while meeting increasing customer demands for quick product delivery.

“Our customers have to get their products to market faster, so they are demanding more speed from us. We had to look for the next generation of mobile carts,” explains Shane Honig, senior industrial engineer at MSC.

SOLUTION

The company looked to Newcastle Systems to provide new carts, purposely designed for the rugged environment of daily distribution. Each mobile cart holds everything that receiving personnel need, including a computer and monitor, a wireless scanner, bar code and label printers, a toolbox with box-cutting tools, and other supplies. The carts also contain maintenance-free batteries, chargers, and inverters to assure that power is maintained for up to 12 hours – plenty of power for a full shift. The carts also fit well into MSC's lean distribution processes. Everything is efficiently organized on the carts to assure that workers have what they need to keep product moving.

The Newcastle Systems **PC Series Mobile Powered Workstation**, boasting a weight capacity of 500 lbs, provides seamless rechargeable power and the ability to run several devices at once (including a laser printer) for 8 - 12 hours of normal use. This workstation allows operators to perform their tasks wirelessly in a facility, warehouse or distribution center.

RESULTS

“We are able to take the cart to the product instead of having the product being brought to us,” says Rich Delille, receiving supervisor for floor freight and stock handling. “There are a lot of times when our forklift driver is unloading trailers or busy putting product up in our pickup-and-delivery racks for stock handlers to put away. So we are not wasting valuable time waiting to process product.”

Based on the carts' performance at the Columbus, OH location, MSC also plans to install them in facilities in Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. The labor savings alone provide a return on investment of only four to six months.



PC Series Label Printing System

ABOUT NEWCASTLE SYSTEMS

Newcastle Systems is committed to providing innovative solutions that help make Auto-ID Technology and other hardware truly mobile and information more readily available across an entire enterprise.