

25 years delivering dependable, global QAD Data Collection

THE COMPANY

Vascutek's mission is to help clinicians enhance and save the lives of their patients by developing and manufacturing the world's best performing range of cardiovascular implants.

Vascutek, a subsidiary of the Terumo Corporation in Japan, is a world leader in the design and manufacture of medical devices.

For over thirty years, Vascutek has applied innovative, advanced technology to develop a range of products that meet the needs of vascular and cardiovascular clinicians all over the world. Over 90% of the company's total output is exported overseas, benefitting patients in more than one hundred countries.

Vascutek works in close co-operation with clinicians internationally in the design and development of new products to address the needs of evolving surgical practice.

From its custom-built manufacturing plants in Glasgow and Leeds, Vascutek offers a comprehensive

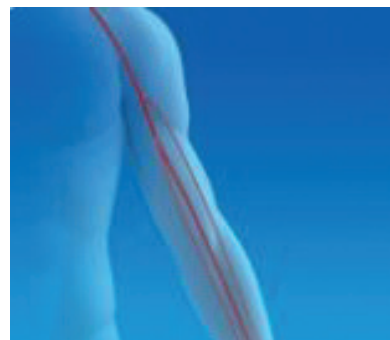


|| The new system gives the ability to trace materials more effectively in our production areas. ||

Eilish Gallagher, Business Analyst - Vascutek

portfolio of product solutions to treat cardiovascular disease. Products include minimally invasive stent grafts to treat abdominal aortic aneurysms (an aneurysm is a bulge in the wall of the blood vessel which, if not treated and it bursts, can be fatal), an extensive range of sealed woven and knitted polyester grafts, ePTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene) grafts and heart valves for peripheral, abdominal and cardiothoracic surgery.

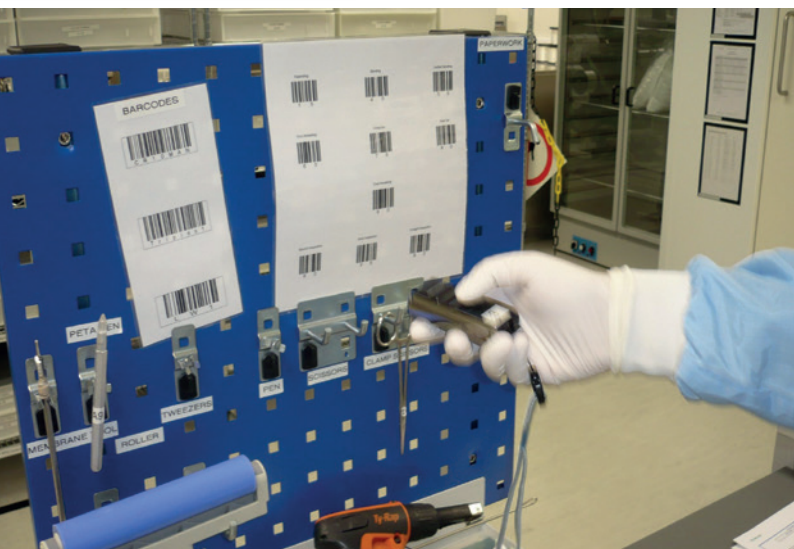
- Vascutek invests in new technology to improve processes
- Company improves stock accuracy and traceability
- Utilisation of Eagle's iPad interface in clean rooms for real time transactions



Left: Anatomical locations for Vascutek products which meet the needs of cardiovascular and cardiothoracic surgeons, and interventional radiologists.



Life Sciences



Left: Barcodes allow users to quick scan a relevant programme ready for data collection.



Right: iPad Mini running Rf Express with a Bluetooth scanner.

THE CHALLENGE

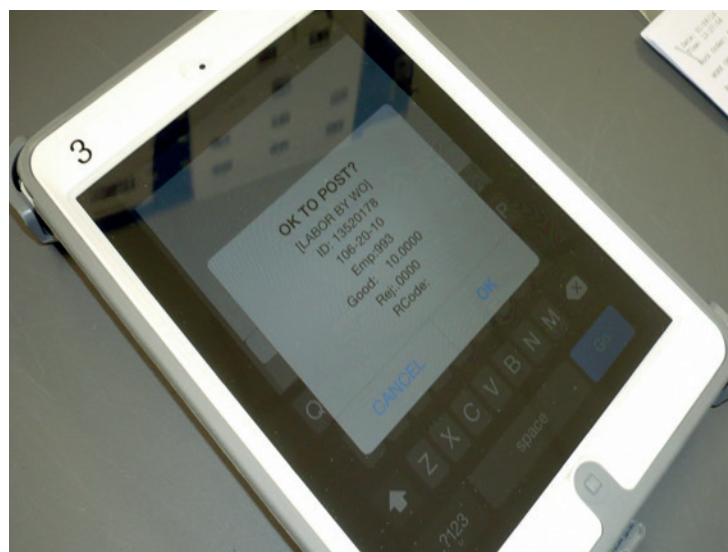
As a leading global medical device manufacturer, Vascutek is guided by an ethos of technical excellence, in-turn, stringent quality control and 100% customer service. The company operates at the very highest level of data accuracy and accessibility in order to comply fully with device regulatory bodies and ensure the effective manufacturing and distribution of all products.

The challenge for Eagle was to implement a QAD system that

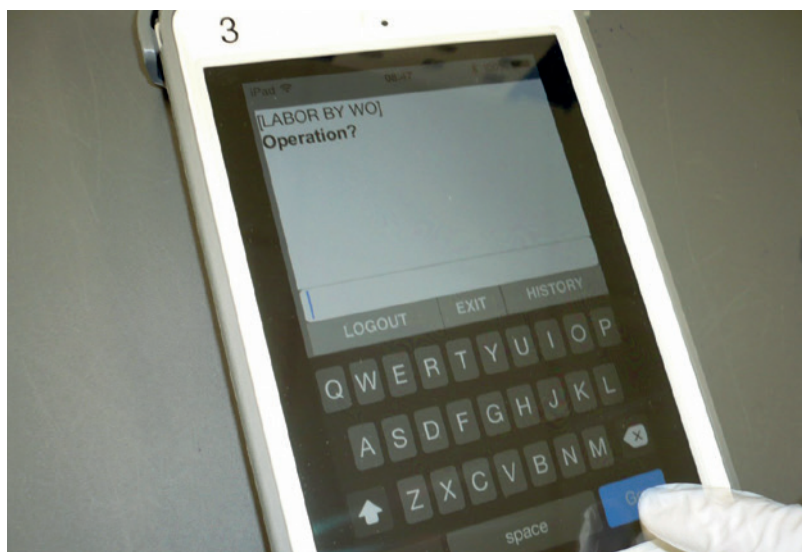
would give an accurate recording of all inventory transactions and full traceability on all serial-controlled stock and product items within the manufacturing plants. It was a challenge that Eilish Gallagher, Business Analyst at Vascutek, was all too aware of. "Historically within the company we have had instances of delayed recording of transactions, which has led to an inaccurate system inventory of components. This meant regularly amending system proposed batch information, whereas with the new Eagle system, we simply scan the

raw materials we're going to use and immediately inform the system which batches are actually being used to produce each work order."

Eilish also recognised the need for Vascutek to increase data accuracy and, in the process, eliminate paper records. "Everything was being done on paper, creating vast amounts of paperwork and being a slow, laborious process. In the few areas where we were using computers, we physically had to leave a workstation site to enter transaction details retrospectively. It was not ideal, and not cost effective."



Left: Prompts on the screen from Eagle instruct the user to post transactions into QAD.



Right: The familiar iPad touch screen enables user to record data simply, prior to posting a transaction.

HOW EAGLE MET THE CHALLENGE?

It was important to introduce a system that could be incorporated quickly and easily into the existing factory environment; one that would not be difficult and time-consuming for staff to adapt to and one that would allow a seamless transition from the existing system.

Following extensive consultations with Eagle, the decision was taken to implement Eagle's RF Express System. Eilish was pleased with the speed of implementation and how easy it was for Vascutek staff to adapt to the new system. "We worked together on the integration process, the timescale, the budget, the onscreen transaction prompts, and how the process solution could be achieved. We were able to train staff internally, with assistance from Eagle. The system is straightforward and once the specification is in place, it is easy to use and there is no opportunity for error."

Component traceability is vital within the company, both for overseas customers and in the United Kingdom. "Our biggest UK customer is the NHS. With life-saving, implantable devices, it is vital to know the composition of each device, so if there are any potential recall issues, we know exactly which batches are affected. The new system gives us the ability to trace materials more effectively within our production areas. For example, we can report and reject scrap material at the exact point of the process when it occurred. With the standard MRP system, this is recorded at the end of production, which doesn't give an accurate reflection of yield."

THE RESULTS

The Eagle RF Express system was introduced at Vascutek in a phased approach beginning with implementation on the sub-assembly line, where components were shared with other product lines not covered by the Eagle system. As these lines were incorporated into the new system, Vascutek were able to see immediate results. "We noticed an

Eilish is enthusiastic about the use of mobile devices within the manufacturing process. "With the use of iPad Minis, we can easily re-configure the layout of the clean rooms, without having to worry about where the network points are located. We can do the transactional work at the point of occurrence, so that things happen in real time and not



increase in inventory accuracy so less time was wasted looking for batches. Many of our processes are very manual so productivity won't increase significantly as a result of the Eagle RF Express but what has been noticeable is the data accuracy and flexibility provided by the Eagle system, for example, it can be adapted to fit a new production process or a new shipping process."

retrospectively. This saves time and is more economical all round, as well as reducing the potential for human error, again, resulting in increased accuracy. If we scan the components that we use at the actual point of use, rather than writing them down on a piece of paper and entering them into the computer later is a huge reduction in the possibility of entering information incorrectly."



THE FUTURE

With the successful implementation of the RF Express, the intention is to roll out the system to Vascutek's custom-fenestrated endovascular devices starting with Anaconda, in particular the Anaconda, and then onto polyester and PTFE product lines. This is something that Vascutek are looking to achieve with Eagle's help. "It's what we want to do. At the moment we have only implemented the Eagle system in one key area within production. This way we can learn and grow, so when we deploy it in other areas, we know

the system's functionality and it can be adapted to fit other product families and different production processes."

"It is definitely our intention to use the Eagle system in the future for our custom-fenestrated products. The methodology for custom-made, or bespoke devices, is so different from that of batch manufacturing, as they are made specifically to match the anatomy of one patient. Individual patients have differently sized arteries, with different positioning for each patient. It is bespoke tailoring for patients and the process is completely

different to the methodology, used in manufacturing batch products in tens, hundreds or thousands."

ABOUT EAGLE

Eagle Europe provides electronic data capture solutions for companies using QAD Enterprise Applications. Eagle are QAD's Alliance Product Partner for data collection with the class leading product RF Express® for QAD Enterprise Applications.

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HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

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