

Edison Electroplating

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THE PROBLEMS

The following problems were identified as negatively affecting productivity:

- Buddy clocking with both the punch clock cards
- Lack of control over the system
- Cards being damaged or lost
- Time consuming for employees and payroll administrator.

Surface treatment company increases productivity with iButton reader time and attendance system

The Edison Group of Companies, based in Malvern East, Johannesburg, is dedicated to surface treatment for the engineering industry. Comprising six companies, the Group has made its mission one of searching for the best possible solutions for customer requirements.

Over the years, each individual company within the Group has carved a niche for itself in the industry and all are synonymous with high levels of quality. To maintain these elevated levels, the company requires

exceptional productivity from its employees. Unaccounted-for absenteeism simply does not form part of the company's credo.

Val Hutchinson, who until her retirement in May 2011 was the company's Administration Manager, said the company has a relationship with Norman Wegerle than started before Senti Systems was even founded, almost 20 years ago. "At the time Norman was the agent for TNA Systems, a German company supplying time and attendance systems," said Val. "He subsequently started the development of his own system and software under the auspices of Senti Systems and over the years we have continued to call on his expertise in our time and attendance issues."

Val explains that the company had run with the clock card system since its inception but due to problems with controlling the process, decided to move over to a more automated manner of time and attendance monitoring and recording. "In the early 1990's we became 'guinea pigs' for Senti Systems' TT540 iButton readers, combined with the company's Turbo Time true 8-bit DOS based time and attendance software. The company has been fantastic over the years, promptly responding to all our queries and issues."

The company has two readers installed at the main gate and the company's 150 employees all pass through the system on their way into and out of work. "We decided that it was unnecessary to install a turnstile at the facility and the system is merely used for time and attendance," says Val.

“The decision to move from manual clocking to the iButton card system was taken for a number of reasons including the all-time favourite – buddy clocking. Other factors involved the fact that the clocking in was time consuming for both the employees and for me to capture all the data for payroll purposes. In addition, when cards were damaged they would not clock in and had to be replaced quite frequently, which is both aggravating and costly,” says Val.

Since installing the system Val says that it now takes one day to capture and import all wage information from the system, via Turbo Time, onto the payroll program. “In the past this could take up to a week and was open to error. We now have decreased capture time with increased accuracy of information. In addition, buddy clocking and missed clocking have been reduced enormously. Another plus for us of course is the fact that numerous reports are now easily accessed and trends in absenteeism can be extrapolated for review.”

THE SOLUTION

The automated button reader system has provided the company with a number of benefits:

- Buddy clocking reduced
- Card loss and damage greatly reduced
- Turbo Time software is connected directly into the company's Accsys package, offering reduced turnaround time of 400% on capturing of wages
- Large variety of report types to choose from
- Can easily identify absenteeism trends
- Since everything is automatic, the data is unquestionable and accurate.

Company's within the Group include Edison Electroplating – decorative plating specialists in chrome, cadmium, brass and silver; SA Electroless Nickel plating for underground pipes and machinery; SA Hard Chrome – specialising in the industrial and hydraulics industry with capabilities to undertake finishes down to 0.01 µm Ra for the likes of Iscor and Columbus Stainless Steel; Ground Bar Industries, which sells raw EN8 steel in hardened chrome, induction hardened and hard chrome varieties; Gladiator Lock Company which manufactures keys and provides imported security locks.