

NGK Spark Plug Co., Ltd.



NGK Spark Plug Co., is the world's top manufacturer of spark plugs. Additionally, the company holds 70% of the Japanese market. The main products are ceramics for IC packages for micro-processing to pharmaceutical supplies, such as artificial bones.

Products delivered from the company's three factories are palletized by product type. Operators inspect pallets and then scan bar code labels with a RF Handy Terminal.

The storing operation begins as labels are produced and issued using a portable printer. Operators confirm the work number against the operation list, the label and the operation display panel, virtually eliminating human error. Operators retrieve products by scanning the shipping list issued by the host computer with the bar code reader of the AWC, a Daifuku device exclusively used for inventory control. This quick procedure allows for fast handling even when emergency shipping is required.

The RF Handy Terminal has greatly increased work efficiency and decreased the labor force by 10%.

Solution Highlights

- Nagoya Distribution Center was built in November 1999 to centralize delivery operation of three factories and four offices/warehouses throughout Japan
- The operations handles 4,000 tier 1 automotive parts such as spark plugs and sensors and delivers them to automobile factories in 150 locations
- The company's Unit Load AS/RS (Automated Storage/Retrieval System) enables for pallet storage of 2,912 pallets
- The Unit Load AS/RS stores 2,496 totes and special small-lot items
- Work display panels are located at each work station
- An RF Handy Terminal offers real-time inspection and creates commands for the storing operations