

case study

Keeping Train Depot on Track with Industrial Vending

Brammer
Buck &
Hickman

A RUBIX
Company



Cost-Savings



Reduced
Downtime



Quick Access
to Supplies



Govia is one of the UK's busiest rail operators, currently providing c.25% of all passenger journeys. Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) is one of two major rail franchises run by Govia. We have been working with GTR at its Brighton depot for a number of years. In 2020 we began a trial of our Vendor Managed Inventory (VMI) solution, which had an immediate, if unexpected, result with the onset of the pandemic, but also long-term benefits.

Walk & Wait Reduces Productivity

The traction and rolling stock maintenance depot in Brighton was originally opened in 1848 as a carriage works and has been through several incarnations since then, most recently re-opening in 2006 following modernisation. An understandably large site, it had the inconvenience of

its Employee Managed Stores being located over 100 metres walk from the production areas.

This resulted in staff expending time walking to and from the stores and waiting whilst the items they required were found. To reduce this wasted time, staff would often take excess stock to their work area, which was leading to peaks and lows in stock availability.

Delivering MRO Supplies at Point of Use

GTR agreed to trial Brammer Buck & Hickman's Invend™ industrial vending solution, providing employees with access to the right stock on-demand and at the point of use.

Brammer Buck & Hickman's Invend™ is an industrial vending solution which can make a real difference to a customer's business by helping to lower inventory costs and improve productivity. Invend™ also offers convenient controlled access to industrial supplies whilst an automated process allows fast efficient replenishment.

At GTR's Brighton depot, we installed one bank of six vending machines just 20 metres from the production areas. These are stocked with around

250 different product lines. We worked closely with the customer to achieve cost savings by consolidating vendors and pro-actively delivering opportunities to reduce costs associated with industrial supplies.

Adding Value Now and in the Future

For GTR, the obvious benefit of the Invend™ solution comes from reducing the need to visit stores and the subsequent wasted walk & wait times, plus removing the need for product "squirrelling" leading to product stock outs which had caused unnecessary downtime.

But further benefits have been witnessed by GTR through implementing this solution, including dramatically reduced admin that comes from reducing invoice transactions to just one per month, and removing the need to order and book products in and undertake stock counts.

Reporting has also been improved with Invend™. Access to an online reporting portal provides GTR with live reporting and full visibility of product transactions per employee. This has provided total transparency on usage by product and cost centre, for a greater control over supplies and budgets.

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A further benefit from Invend™, which was entirely unpredicted, came as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as Bill Bates, Materials Controller – Brighton, GTR, explains: “We started this in January 2020 for a trial of six months. This was obviously just before Covid. What happened was that by having the machines in place we were able to reduce some of the risks associated with handling products and by having most of our consumables in the machine we were able to cope with any staff shortages during those difficult times without affecting production.”

GTR saw the immediate benefits Invend™ brought in this crisis’s situation, but is also well aware of the longer-term benefits which it is keen to adopt on a widespread basis:



We have noticed that our costs have reduced and are keen to extend both the number of items in the machines as well as rolling it out to other depots within our group.



Contact us to find out more:

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