



14th October 2009

RFID alliance to unlock library potential

An Alliance of leading library suppliers will see Radio Frequency IDentification (RFID) take a huge step towards becoming a universally adopted technology in UK libraries.

For the first time in the UK market, the major players in RFID, including: 2CQR, 3M Library Systems, Axiell, Bibliotheca, D-Tech, Intellident, and Plescon Security Products will join forces to support the soon to be released ISO 28560 tag data standard and the UK National Profile.

In forming the Alliance, each member is committing to help deliver ISO-based solutions to the library community, and striving for the ultimate goal of making all library items interchangeable between libraries – regardless of the self-service equipment deployed.

The benefits of this agreement could be instrumental to the wider public use of library facilities as loaning and returning items could be completed at different venues – allowing for much greater flexibility.

The move to form an Alliance has been made possible by the development of the new standard from the global ISO standards body. ISO/DIS 28560 relates to how information is stored on an RFID tag, and as a result, all new tags can be read in the same way – allowing interoperability of disparate self-service solutions.

This agreement is a breakthrough for the use of RFID technology in libraries, as it will provide a single standard that every member can work to. The Alliance between these leading vendors demonstrates that although competing at a solution level, they share a common belief in promoting standards – and recognise that tagged items should be interchangeable between libraries.



Importantly for existing customers of the Alliance suppliers, each has committed to supporting their historical customer base with the move to the new standard as and when it should be required.

With the Alliance agreement in place, and with ISO/DIS 28560-2 setting the standard for all future tags, the next logical step is for libraries to act on this to further improve their services. The development and wider acceptance of RFID is now growing at pace, with the UK now the market leader in deployment of innovative technology.

Members of the Alliance will be in attendance at the forthcoming RFID in Libraries Conference, organised by CILIP, and can be contacted as follows:

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