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Special Issue on
Managing RFID Projects in Organizations

Radio frequency identification (RFID) allows automated identification of products by embedding chips with wireless antennas on objects and has been adopted in many application areas ranging from inventory control in supply chain management to customer relationship management in retailing. The key advantage of RFID is that it leads to increased visibility of items, pallets or people on the move and allows for real time querying of the location of these entities. The increased data on movement of items has the potential to enhance various activities related to organizational decision making such as demand forecasting, shelf space management, target marketing, prevention of stockouts, among others.

A new market research report from IDTechEx covering the adoption and usage of RFID reveals some surprising new trends. In 2005, 1.8 billion RFID tags were sold and it is estimated that the market for RFID will increase to \$24.50 billion by 2015. Among RFID tags sold worldwide, it is estimated that by 2010, 48% of the RFID tags will be sold in East Asia, followed by 32% in North America (IDTechEx, 2005). This optimistic report is in sharp contrast to the finding that only 9% of retailers have adopted RFID technologies and among them only 29% of the retailers opened a RFID enabled pilot store by the end of 2006 (Kilcourse, 2006). There is no denying that in spite of the tremendous fanfare on RFID by the popular press, organizations remain cautious and conservative when it comes to the adoption of RFID technologies. Many organizations set up pilot programs to test RFID technology in their operations but withdraw later on due to uncertainties related to return on investment or lack of technical know-how.

The theme of the special issue will be to discover the challenges faced by organizations in execution of RFID projects. It will address every aspect of RFID project management starting from requirements analysis, to implementation, and maintenance. It will include papers that examine either successful or unsuccessful RFID projects and garner important lessons learnt from such projects. This special issue will focus on advancing research in RFID project management by publishing forward-thinking, rigorous research that stimulates future research in this area. The special issue will encourage research that uses empirical, analytical, or case study approaches and either strives to generate insightful theoretical principles, provide validation of existing theories in the context of management of RFID projects, or compare and contrast RFID project management with other enterprise system implementation projects. Research from diverse academic disciplines such as information systems, operations management, computer science, operations research, marketing, strategic management, and other related areas are welcome for this special issue. We seek original manuscripts that are previously unpublished and that present an interdisciplinary approach in solving problems related to the theme.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to the following:

- Protocols for RFID project management
- Requirements analysis for RFID projects
- Estimating return on investment for RFID projects
- Managing financial and human resources for RFID projects
- Automating RFID projects
- Knowledge management in RFID projects
- Evaluation of RFID projects
- Critical success/failure factors for RFID projects
- Outsourcing RFID projects
- Risk assessment for RFID projects
- Projects to integrate RFID technology with enterprise systems
- Scheduling and time management in RFID projects
- Strategic and financial impacts of RFID projects
- Tradeoff analysis in RFID projects
- Benchmarking and standardizing RFID projects
- Addressing security and privacy in RFID projects
- Barriers and smart solutions for RFID project management
- Country and industry specific studies on RFID project management

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Important dates:

1 November 2008: Due date for full paper submission for special issue
1 December 2008: Outcome of initial screening sent to authors
1 March 2009: Outcome of first round review sent to corresponding authors
1 May 2009: Due date for resubmission of paper with required revisions
1 July 2009: Final decision
1 August 2009: Due date for authors to submit final version of paper
End 2009: Target publication date of special issue

Submission instructions:

Please submit original manuscripts which observe the EJIS published style preferences: http://www.palgrave-journals.com/ejis/author_instructions.html

Contact the special issue editors for further submission instructions