

## Plant Access Grows Its Competitive Edge

Plant Access and Bunnings achieve 100% track and trace accuracy with the Honeywell T75 RFID tags and CN70 rugged mobile computers.

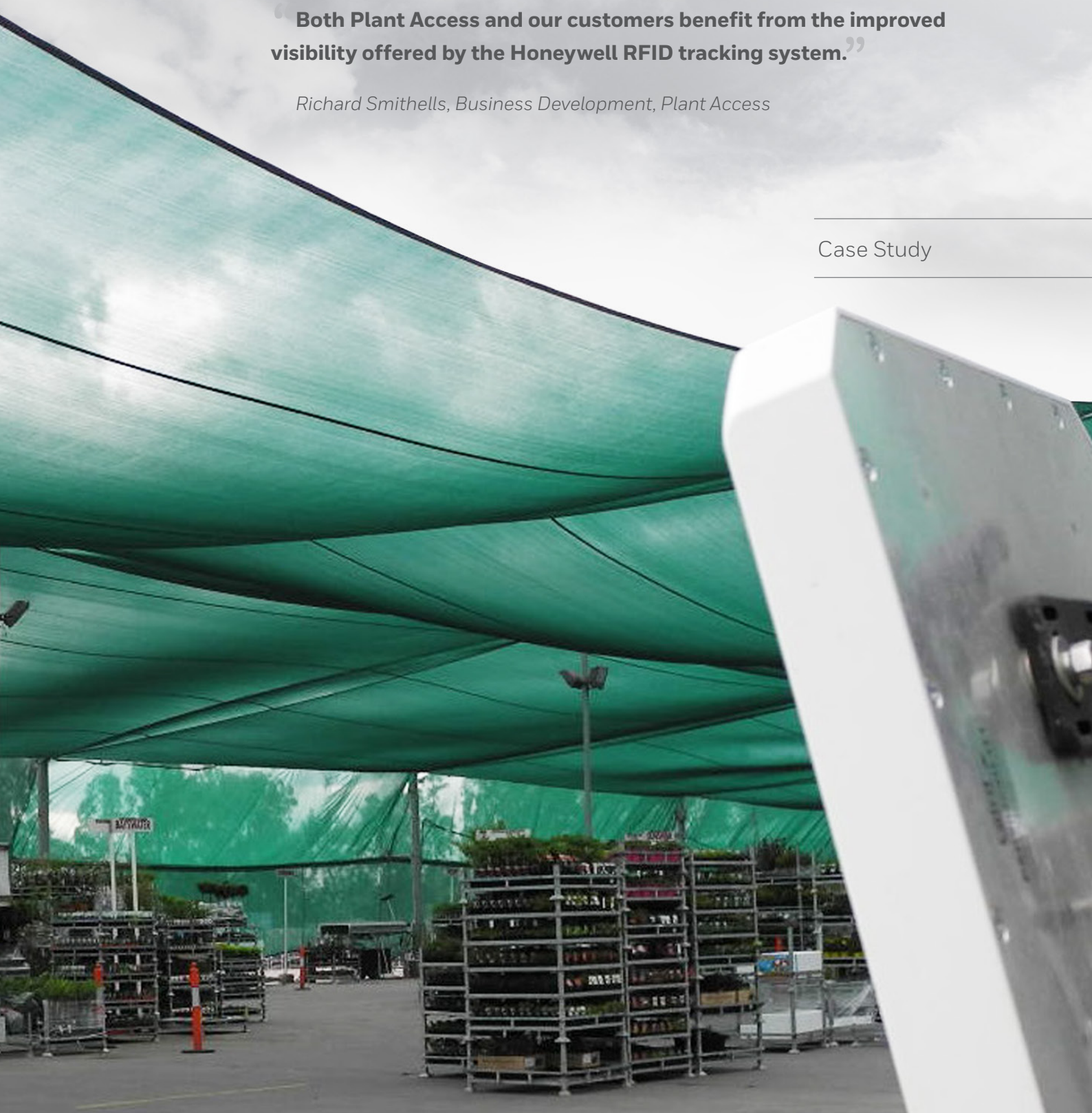
“Both Plant Access and our customers benefit from the improved visibility offered by the Honeywell RFID tracking system.”

*Richard Smithells, Business Development, Plant Access*

---

Case Study

---



**Plant Access is a specialized logistics service provider that uses a unique, innovative steel stillage design to deliver nursery plants to Bunnings stores across Victoria and South Australia. Knowing the location of all their stillages and the status of orders was a serious challenge for Plant Access under a legacy ordering system that was manual and paper-based. Honeywell served up the perfect solution with IT75 RFID tags and CN70 rugged mobile computers.**

## **The Needs**

Gain accurate and instant visibility to stillage assets and the products they are transporting.

Capture real-time data about the status of ongoing orders across the supply chain.

Eliminate the need for manual counting and inventory updates.

Maximize resource allocation by planning route usage, reducing the number of lost or misplaced stillages, and preventing costly delivery mistakes.

## **The Solution**

Plant Access manages the orders and provides the steel stillages that are used to pick, cross-dock, and deliver plant products to Bunnings warehouses and stores. Shipments from different suppliers are consolidated at the Plant Access cross-dock facility before orders are transported to Bunnings locations and plants are sold to consumers directly out of the steel stillages.

At any given moment, Plant Access has thousands of re-usable steel stillages spread across hundreds of sites throughout the supply chain. Knowing the location of all their stillages and the status of orders was a serious challenge for Plant Access under a legacy paper-based ordering system. To have accurate and instant visibility to their stillage assets and the products they were transporting a new automated tracking system was necessary. The new tool needed to gather real-time data from nursery supplier sites, the Plant Access cross-dock logistics facility, and the Bunnings stores.

## **Weeding Out Manual Processes**

“Plant Access commissioned us to design and pilot an automated system to track the tailor-made steel stillages, that would allow real-time visibility of customer orders across the supply chain,” says Geoffrey Ramadan, Managing Director, Unique Micro Design (UMD.) “Following successful testing of Honeywell RFID technology, Plant Access decided to roll out a pilot automated track and trace system supported by our Cloud network, enabling real-time information to be accessible from multiple locations.”

Honeywell IT75 rugged metal-mount UHF RFID tags are now attached to the specially designed stillages. When scanned and processed at key intervals in the supply chain they feed real-time track and trace information to the Plant Access Cloud. The pilot system allows supplier nurseries to pull down orders from the Plant Access Cloud by leveraging data captured by workers on their RFID-enabled Honeywell CN70 rugged mobile terminals. The handheld computers are used in the nursery to pick and pack orders, scan the RFID tags on packed stillages, and finally register the order as packed on the Cloud so Plant Access is notified that the order is ready for pick-up and transportation.

The RFID portal at the Plant Access cross-dock is fitted with Honeywell IF61 and IF2 industrial readers to capture the RFID tags on the stillages as trucks pass through the entry or exit the portal. When RFID tags are read by the portal, it automatically sends real-time track and trace information to the Plant Access Cloud. As a result, manual counting and inventory updates are no longer required. Trucks of various sizes are loaded with up to 100 stillages with the portal reading up to 40 tags per second. The RFID tags are applied on carefully selected locations on the stillages to achieve a 100% read rate by the portal when trucks are passing through fully loaded.

## Building a Flourishing Future With RFID

The major benefit of the new Plant Access pilot system is improved visibility into where stillages are located. It's now easy to know where the stillages are, from those that are yet to be picked and packed, to nursery-fulfilled (picked and packed at the supplier), arrived at the cross-dock (read at the entry portal), exited cross-dock (read at the exit portal), to those that have already been delivered (when the customer reports that the order has arrived.) Real-time updates are successfully achieved for orders both leaving the supplier sites and arriving at the Plant Access cross-dock.

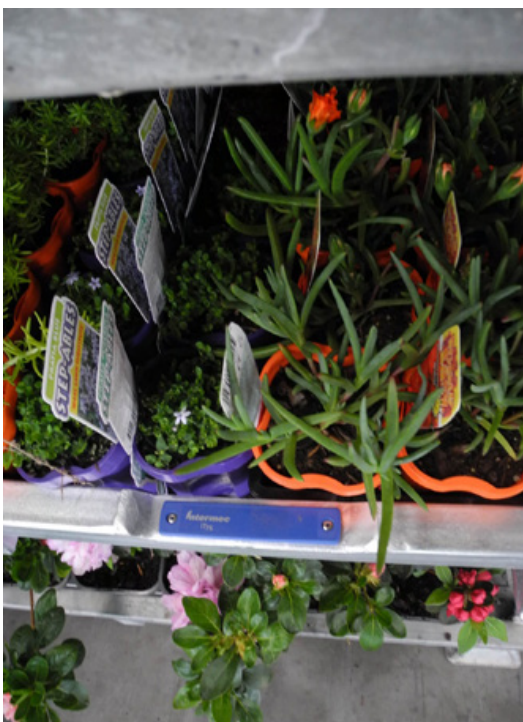
“The Plant Access upgrade pilot project has succeeded in capturing asset location data in real-time at critical points in the supply chain,” says Richard Smithells, Business Development, Plant Access. “Both Plant Access and our customers benefit from the improved visibility offered by the Honeywell RFID tracking system.”

The real-time notification enabled by the UMD and Honeywell RFID solution is helping Plant Access maximize resource allocation, including scheduling the right truck size for order deliveries, planning out route usage, and reducing the number of lost or misplaced stillages. Real-time information also allows Plant Access to immediately detect any items being sent in the wrong consignment when trucks are exiting the cross dock, which prevents costly delivery mistakes and saves the extra time that would have been needed to re-fulfill the order.

Customer service has been boosted for Bunnings that can now quickly look up its orders on the web portal to track what is being delivered. Once an order is received, Bunnings can cross-check that all items are correct and mark it off as successfully delivered to aid proof of delivery.

At the Plant Access cross-dock, the time- and labor-intensive task of manually inputting data when an order arrives has been significantly reduced. Errors have been eliminated thanks to the new automated system. The RFID application has also brought improvements to the operations of nursery suppliers, as they are now able to save paper by displaying orders on the handheld devices rather than printing them on paper.

“I am thrilled that Plant Access chose Honeywell RFID technology for this green life industry-first track and trace application,” says Tony Repaci, Honeywell country manager, Australia and New Zealand. “The RFID solution is delivering excellent business value and is a competitive differentiator for Plant Access through 100% accuracy in automatic identification of each specific asset.”



**“ The Plant Access upgrade pilot project has succeeded in capturing asset location data in real-time at critical points in the supply chain.”**

*Richard Smithells, Business Development, Plant Access*





### The Benefits

- Real-time updates are successfully achieved for orders both leaving the supplier sites and arriving at the Plant Access cross-dock.
- Improved visibility into where stillages are located – ranging from those that are new to those arrived at the cross-dock to the stillages that are already delivered.
- The time- and labor-intensive task of manually inputting data has been significantly reduced.
- The real-time notification enabled by the Honeywell solution is helping Plant Access maximize resource allocation by planning route usage and reducing the number of lost or misplaced stillages.
- Real-time information also allows Plant Access to immediately detect any items being sent in the wrong consignment, which prevents costly delivery mistakes.

**For more information:**

[www.honeywellaidc.com](http://www.honeywellaidc.com)

**Honeywell Safety and Productivity Solutions**

17 Changi Business Park Central 1

Singapore 786073

(65) 6818-5378

[www.honeywell.com](http://www.honeywell.com)

SPS-Plant-Access-EN(0217)-CS-R  
© 2016 Honeywell International Inc.

**Honeywell**