

Field spare parts sourcing made simple with mobile ByBox tool

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Overnight parts delivery specialist ByBox has made it easier for field engineers to source urgent spare parts with the introduction of Vanventory.

The new system extends the reach of the company's Thinventory management system. It now includes stock that has been previously collected from its network of box banks, maintaining a full inventory of what is aboard the client's fleet of service vehicles at all times.

ByBox said the new mobile inventory element would reduce downtime for field engineers performing emergency repairs and could reduce companies' need for their own warehousing.

The current Thinventory system manages each of the key stages of the supply chain process - raising purchase orders, goods in, pick, dispatch, deliver, return, repair, and return to good stock - all with serial number visibility.

Vanventory takes a copy of the supply chain parts data held on the Thinventory servers and retains this on a handheld computer that is carried by the field engineer.

Fitted with GPS satellite tracking, a digital camera, omni-directional barcode scanning, a colour touch screen, GPRS wireless communications and WiFi, it provides the engineer with everything he needs to identify a part, find out where the nearest one is, and

make arrangements to get hold of it.

New stock is scanned into the system when collected from the ByBox drop-box network, and stock is scanned out when it is removed from the van and allocated to an engineer.

There is also a function for reserving a part from mobile stock to prevent it being booked out on another job - a feature that is proving particularly useful in emergencies.