



## Solution

The HP printers were removed and four Intermec EasyCoder™ 3400 printers were installed. One printer is in production control. It is used to print out the cable reel number labels that are attached to exchange cable product reels. It is also used to print reel batch number labels for inventory control for reels that are brought from the yard, cut to specific lengths, and shipped to their customers. They also create and print reel identification labels that track their reel locations.

There are two printers in shipping. One is used to print reel batch number labels and cable reel labels; the other is used to print shipping labels. Each uses a different type of label material. The fourth is located in final test and is used for reel labels and reel batch labels.

After evaluating several different materials for label stock, Belden chose Intermec labels. These labels are made from a very durable material that can withstand the constant abuse associated with cross-country shipping. The new shipping labels have been designed, formatted, and approved by their customers.

### ERPLabel for SAP R/3

Belden also installed ERPLabel software so they could print directly to the Intermec printers from their SAP R/3 system. Instead of spooling print jobs to a local PC and using middleware to translate the information, BCD redirects the spool to a UNIX server, which sends the job directly



to the printer. This alleviates the need for dedicated PCs to run the label printers.

Using Intermec's ERPLabel made designing the labels much easier than their previous system, which required IT programming for virtually any format change. Using ERPLabel changed label design from a laborious, very technical process to a simple, drag-and-drop process that non-technical people could perform.

For instance, if you've already got the label into production you can go in and do a quick fix and it immediately takes effect on the label. And because ERPLabel is able to generate a format that the Intermec printer understands it makes the conversion process seamless.

### Results

Label production at Belden is a much more efficient and easy process. The

new printers are very precise and extremely quick; labels are ready to apply as soon as they're printed.

"The new shipping label printers eliminated the need to double laminate the packing labels," said Pam Shim, system services manager of Belden. "The shipping group used to spend an average of 60 hours a month double laminating the old shipping labels, time that can now be utilized for other duties. The cost of materials for packing labels was \$1,400 per month, but after implementing the Intermec label material, costs have been reduced to \$600 per month.

"We used about the same number of HP printers but with only half of the capacity," said Shim. "Overall, we save \$7,500.00 a month by using the Intermec printers."

And label design is now something virtually anyone can do. ERPLabel's ease of use means you don't need to be a programmer or an expert to configure the layout. Once the SAP script has been set up, just about any one can produce the layout with a little training.

"The biggest benefit is that I can see what I'm designing a lot more clearly than using SAP script," said Tim Mitchell, programmer, Belden Communications Division. "SAP script is very cumbersome to use. But Intermec's ERPLabel is really nice because it's literally drag and drop. You tell it what you want and that's exactly what you get. It's very flexible."

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