

## ZETES CASE STUDY |Socigeste



## Socigeste speeds up labelling of meals

Socigeste is a member of the Trivalor Group that has been operating in the food industry for over 30 years

The company operates downstream and upstream of the Group's other companies and is able to purchase food products on favourable terms. It has around 1,200 institutional catering operations in place. All Trivalor Group companies in the food industry have obtained certification of their quality management systems



(http://www.trivalor.pt/main\_socigeste.html#socigeste). Socigeste produces between 18,000 and 22,000 meals every day, which are distributed all over Portugal. Prior to dispensing the food portions that will be subsequently cooked at high temperature, food trays are identified by means of a label containing information as to the name and type of meal, the date of manufacture, 'best before' date and the name of the end customer.



This type of information is extremely important because it facilitates traceability of the food products throughout the production and distribution chain.

With the number of orders increasing, Socigeste needed to replace the applicator previously used to affix the labels to the food trays. The equipment used was obsolete and too slow for the company's growing requirements.

Socigeste decided to team up with Zetes Burótica, as Trivalor Group's preferred partner for Automatic Identification and Mobility solutions, enabling the company from the very outset to benefit from over 20 years' experience.

Zetes Burótica specialises in Real Time Printing and

Application solutions for which it has its own brand, Powersys (a company of the Zetes Group), which designs, develops and produces its own range of label applicators. Powersys' ZPA series is a range of intelligent, extremely robust label applicators for boxes and pallets, designed to print and affix labels in even the most challenging environments.

Socigeste opted for a rapid solution - Powersys's ZPA 1100 applicator. Designed to use just the right amount of force when applying a label to a fragile container, this robust applicator has a mechanical arm that affixes the labels directly onto the sides of the food trays.

The applicator also has a sensor that recognises the presence of the container as it passes along the line, so that the mechanical arm can then affix the label.

To control this operation, a custom-built software application - Label Apply - has been developed. The data containing the information about the meals to be produced during the day is issued by the central system. Label Apply interprets this data and issues the label printing commands.