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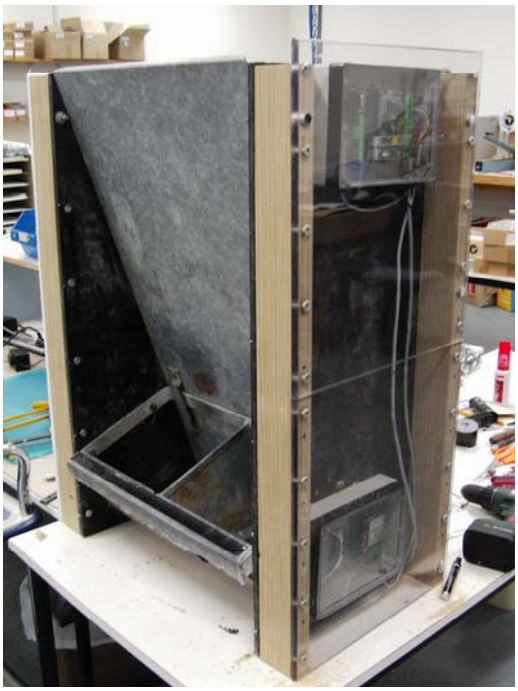
Project Summary

RFID Reader for Pig Feeder
Department of Primary Industries (Victoria)



The Customer:

The Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) supports the agriculture, fisheries, petroleum, minerals, energy and forest industries in Victoria. DPI uses a collaborative approach to influence improvements in industry performance and to encourage the adoption of new technologies and development practices. It does this by using its expertise in science and technology to provide information and advice on the use and management of resources.

The Requirement:

The DPI wish to investigate husbandry practices relating to pigs and in particular their feeding habits. In order to measure this, a mechanism was required to identify individual animals and time spent feeding.

The Solution:

UMD recommend the use of low frequency RFID tags, as currently used in Cattle livestock tracking. UMD modified an existing pig-feeder (as supplied by DPI) and installed a UMD MP2084 LF RFID Reading Module, antennas, UMD Model 620 Controller with specialised synchronisation software and host computer interface. Special emphasis was made to ensure the robustness of the construction of the system, as pigs can be very destructive.

The Outcomes

The reading performance of the system was considered exceptional. Given that up to 3 animals could be identified in the pig-feeder at any one time. The pig-feeder was designed to feed two pigs.

The resulting system was also robust and sturdy.