

CASE STUDY



ASAP Systems | Inventory Management and Asset Tracking

ASAP Passport Helps Medical Technology Company Meet FDA Guidelines and ISO Standards for Quality Control

With advanced inventory tracking for batch (lot) inventory, Quasar Bio-Tech tracks detailed inventory information — from individual parts to the final, assembled product.



QUASAR BIO-TECH, INC. SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Donald Collison, Shipping and Receiving Manager
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Quasar Bio-Tech, Inc., a medical technology company based in Sarasota, Florida, develops and manufactures state-of-the-art, handheld light therapy devices for acne and anti aging that are used by skin care professionals and general consumers. Founded in 2001, the company sells more than 15,000 units annually to customers in the U.S. and Europe.

THE CHALLENGE

Quasar manufactures parts of its device and assembles the entire product in its Sarasota headquarters. Because Quasar devices are considered a medical tool, the company has to follow specific FDA guidelines and ISO Standards to ensure the quality of their product to customers.

And, in the unlikely case they need to recall product, Quasar must also track both vendor and customer information — giving them detailed accountability for where parts came from, what the delivery date was, who has purchased products and more. With so many variables to consider, Quasar needed an inventory management system that was both sophisticated and flexible.

Prior to working with ASAP Systems, Quasar used QuickBooks to track its inventory, including parts and finished products, but the accounting software wasn't meeting their needs. For example, it didn't allow the company to track by batch (lot) number or to customize the inventory attributes to include things like expiration dates and vendor information.

"Quickbooks doesn't do inventory well," said Quasar Shipping and Receiving Manager Donald Collison "Our numbers were always wrong and we couldn't add a lot of information that we needed."

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ADVANCED INVENTORY WITH ASAP SYSTEMS

After researching inventory management systems for more than a year, Collison chose ASAP Passport advanced inventory management for manufacturers. He paired the software with a barcode printer and Motorola handheld scanner, giving Quasar the ability to quickly scan and track all inventory in detail — from parts to the final assembled product.

Collison and his team also track by batch (lot) and/or product serial numbers. When the team receives an item into inventory, it is assigned a batch (lot) number that's associated with the vendor invoice. This allows employees to follow the item through its full stock and sales lifecycle. Quasar has complete visibility over the details of specific inventory items, as well as a larger overview of different batches (lots) the company receives. If any issues arise, Quasar can easily reference the software and find out which vendor delivered the inventory in a specific batch, what date it was delivered on and more.

In addition, with ASAP System's Kitting feature, Quasar associates specific batches (for the primary and secondary device, power supply, manual, serum, foam insert, box, etc.) with the assembled product. As inventory items are "consumed" through the assembly process, their details are tracked within the ASAP Passport software.

The assembled, finished product is then assigned its own serial number that is a combination of the primary device's original lot number plus the addition of a numerical number that's associated with the date and location of kit assembly. ASAP Passport can accommodate this kind of "custom" numbering. This gives Quasar the ability to quickly pull up specific information on any finished product's contents — all the way back to the vendor — as well as details on when and where the final product was assembled.

The company also has the ability to rename and customize data field names according to part supplier, batch (lot) number, expiration dates, quality status, kitting number and more. With ASAP Passport, Quasar tightly controls quality, quantity, and traceability in its inventory — a requirement for ISO Standards.

Advanced Inventory also gives users the ability to specify an unlimited number of separate and individual inventory locations (such as warehouses, stock rooms or company sites), assign pictures and other documents to the inventory items, easily create pick lists based on LIFO / FIFO information, make stock adjustments and more.

When Quasar's warehouse team receives an item into inventory, it is assigned a batch (lot) number that's associated with the vendor invoice. This gives employees the ability to follow the item through its full stock and sales lifecycle.

INTEGRATION WITH QUICKBOOKS ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

One of the main requirements Quasar had for its inventory management system was that it seamlessly integrated with QuickBooks accounting software.

"We wanted Quickbooks to be our main source of order processing that feeds to an inventory system, and we wanted to be able to control the information that went back and forth between the two systems," said Collison, "but 95 percent of the software out there doesn't work with Quickbooks."

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ASAP Passport does. With just a click of a button, inventory, vendor and customer related transactions are easily (and automatically) synced between the two applications through a bi-directional information transfer. Warehouse personnel and employees focus on their standard inventory tasks while ASAP Systems handles the flow of that information into QuickBooks, making inventory, customer and order management work more efficiently.

IMPROVING PROCESS CONTROL

Quasar also wanted to improve management of its internal processes, including limiting the number employees who have full user access to the inventory management system. With the ASAP Systems Security Group feature, management can create security groups that set up functional roles and capabilities within the system. Employees are assigned to one or more of these groups, allowing the administrator to have full control by granting users only the access that they need, such as “view only.”

A BRIGHT FUTURE MEANS MORE COMPLEXITY

Quasar is experiencing strong demand for its product, and this has put the company on a pace of fast-growth for the coming years. In addition, the company is planning to expand manufacturing at their U.S. facilities. As they do so, Quasar’s inventory management system will need to accommodate their increasingly complex manufacturing and assembly processes.

“We’re going to be doing more with our barcoding system, and we’re looking into tracking our WIP (work in progress) items as our next steps,” said Collison.

Because ASAP Passport is designed to be used with advanced features that can be turned “on,” as the company needs them, Collison and his team have the ability to customize and adapt the system as they grow — meaning less money spent on custom development, upgrades and patches. In this way, ASAP Passport serves Quasar’s needs today and will continue to do so as the company’s processes become ever more complex and sophisticated.

For more information on ASAP Systems’ inventory and asset tracking solutions, go to our web site or contact sales@asapsystems.com