



**THE EVOLUTIONAL JOURNEY – FROM BATCH CODING TO  
TRACEABILITY AND SUPPLY CHAIN VISIBILITY BY USING  
GLOBAL STANDARDS**

**APEC LSIF WEBINAR – WIPOTEC-OCS / 2021 / Volker Ditscher**

**WIPOTEC**  **OCS**  
WEIGHING AND INSPECTION SOLUTIONS

# AGENDA

- ▲ BATCH CODING VS. SERIALIZATION
- ▲ THE MOST UNDERESTIMATED PROJECT OF THE CENTURY
- ▲ TYPICAL CHALLENGES & BEST PRACTICES
- ▲ HOW TO PROFIT LONG TERM
- ▲ SUMMARY: IMPLEMENTING SERIALIZATION – A CHALLENGING AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROJECT



# Batch Coding vs. Serialization



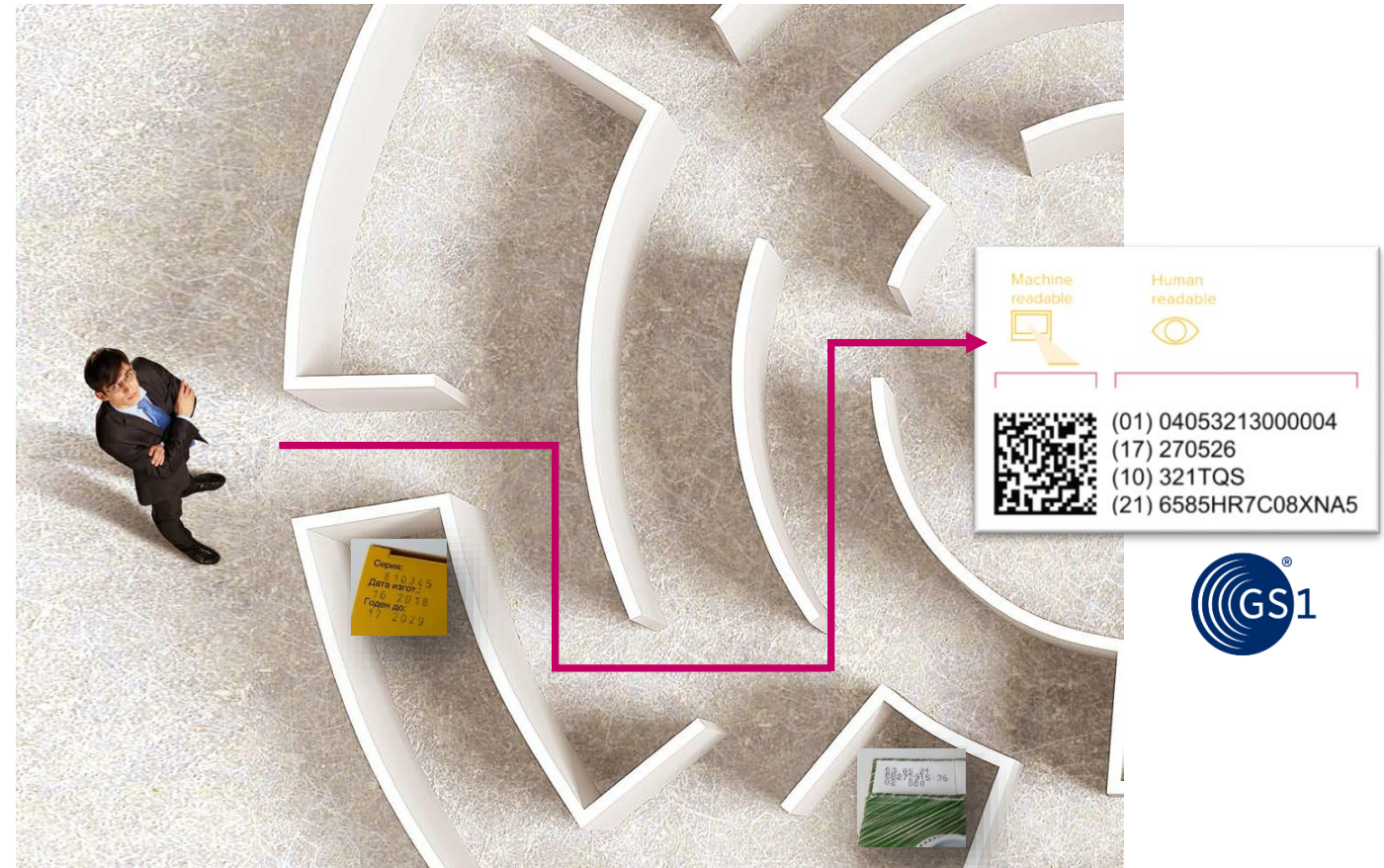
# Batch Coding vs. Serialization – The Typical Evolution!



# It's a Journey!

- ▲ To overcome the lack of standardized product identification
- ▲ Value beyond just batch coding
- ▲ Making use of the potentials of serialization

→ Implementing a **standardized solution** that *not only prints codes* but that can also effectively generate, manage and exchange data!



# Poll 1

# Serialization – Why?



Legal compliance



Eliminate counterfeit pharmaceuticals



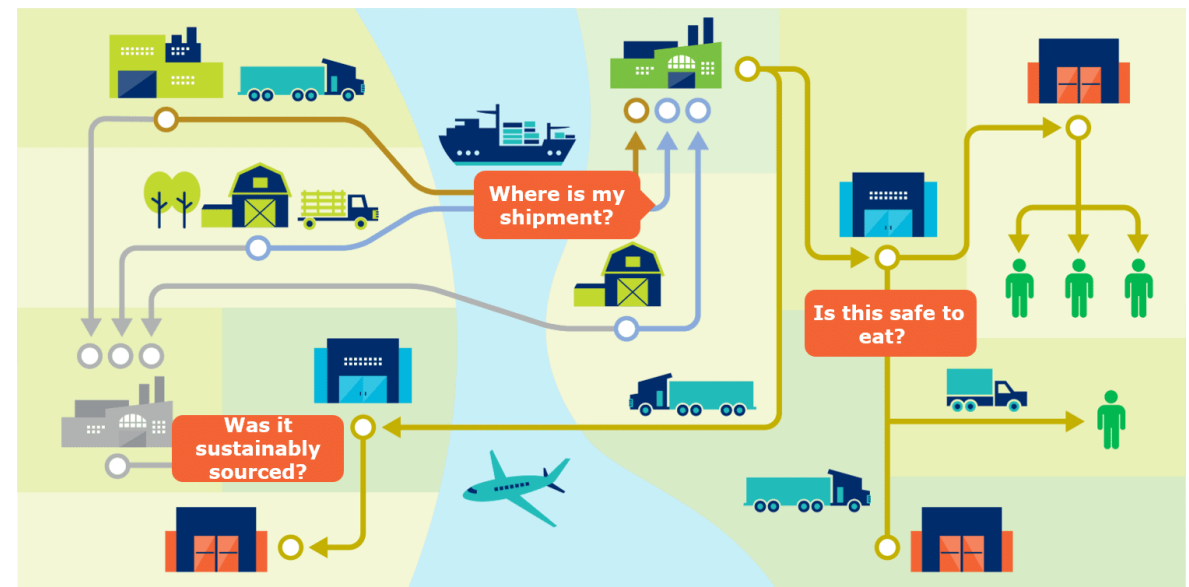
Defend market position



Brand & consumer protection



- ▲ **Track & Trace** is a holistic interoperable system that enables product traceability and in-depth visibility of the supply chain
  - ▲ Tracking → Follow the product during movement through the supply chain!
  - ▲ Tracing → Identifying the origins of each movement in a retrospective view!
- ▲ **Serialization** protects products through the assignment of unique serial numbers
- ▲ **Aggregation** creates a parent-child relationship of many serialized goods



Source: GS1

The most underestimated project  
of the century?

# Who is the “poor” person wearing the serialization hat?

## ▲ Typical statements:

- ▲ *„Serialization is just printing a code on a box“*
- ▲ *„The implementation of the legislation will surely be postponed“*
- ▲ *„We will not sell more when we implement Serialization“*

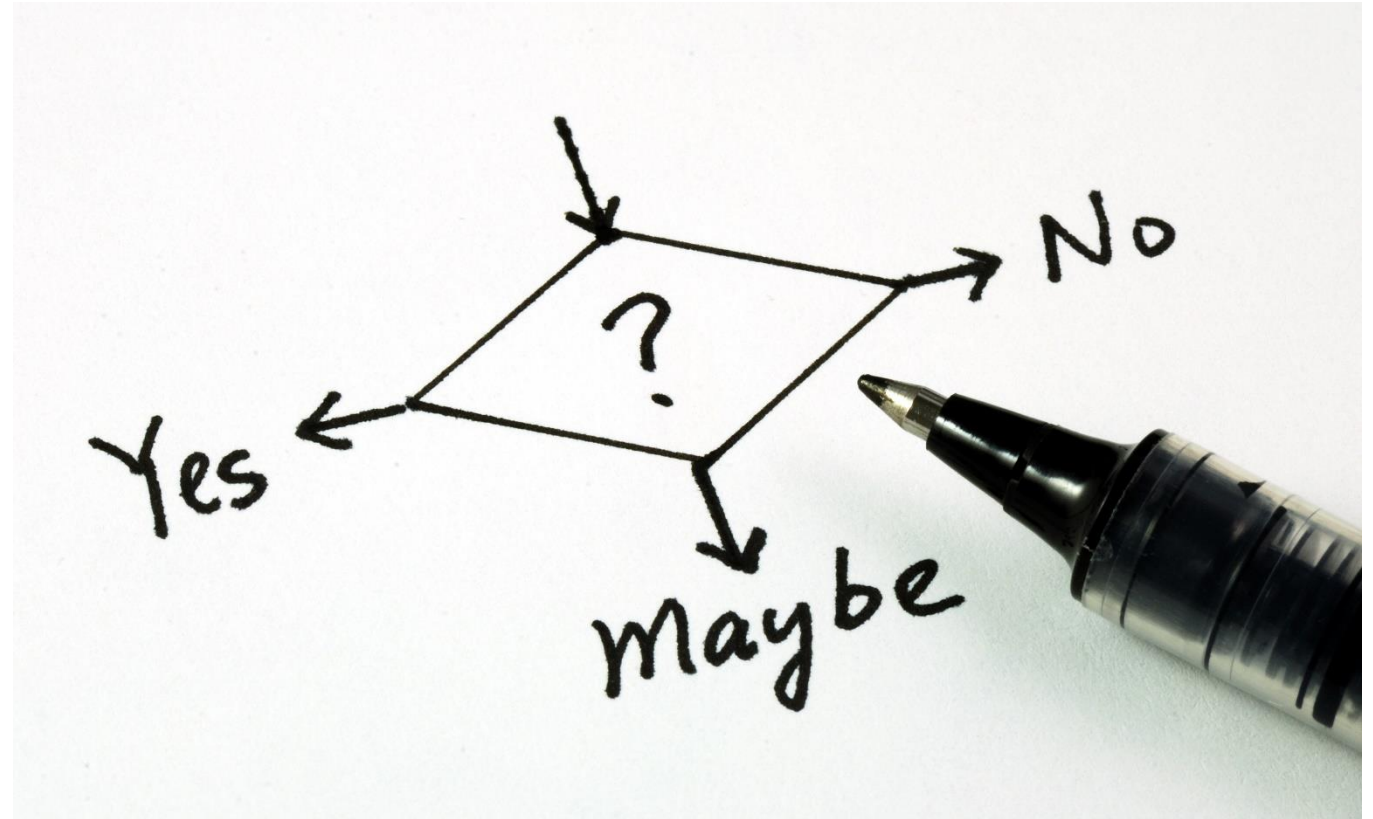
## ▲ The facts, however, are:

- ▲ Management underestimates complexity and impact on the organization
- ▲ No direct return on investment
- ▲ No acceptance within the company because of lack of visibility and lack of knowledge
- ▲ Most important compliance project in pharma of the last decade, and maybe longer



## What if you do not comply?

- ▲ Big risk or opportunity? – Market shares will be restructured because of Serialization!
- ▲ Can you still deliver to the market if you do not comply?
- ▲ If your customers did not ask for Serialization yet, maybe they might be considering another business partner or CMO?





# Typical Challenges - Best practices

## Challenge: Who should solve the puzzle?

- ▲ Board Level Management
- ▲ Supply Chain
- ▲ QA/QM
- ▲ Legal affairs
- ▲ Sales and marketing (artwork)
- ▲ Engineering
- ▲ Production
- ▲ IT
- ▲ ...

→ **Serialization** is not solely an IT or solely an engineering project, it is a **strategic business project impacting the whole organization!**



## Best practice: TEAMWORK

- ▲ **Project teams must cover all relevant functionalities for adapting internal / external processes!**
- ▲ Select external consultants or vendors wisely!
- ▲ It's a long term partnership!
- ▲ Check if vendors are monitoring global regulations on a permanent basis and implementing them “automatically” in their software releases!
- ▲ Look at long term costs and TCO!
- ▲ Consider tricky update- or software-maintenance strategies!





## Challenge: Lack of Interoperability

- ▲ **Serialization projects are complex!**
- ▲ Are the experts of each profession talking to each other or will a “one-stop shop” approach end up in a vendor lock-in situation?
- ▲ Watch out for proprietary and non standardized offers!
- ▲ Downsides of proprietary / vendor lock-in proposals:
  - ▲ Being fully dependent on one single vendor for all levels leads to financial autocracy! → **Financial risks!**
  - ▲ If the selected scope cannot meet the requirements due to missing functionalities? → **No compliance!**
  - ▲ Global country regulations are changing very frequently! → **Lack in** comprehensive release roll-out plans and **professional 24/7 SW hot-fixes!**

→ If no full interoperability is given or the vendor lock-in solution is down → **No production!**





### OPEN-SCS Working Group

- ▲ WIPOTEC-OCS is founding member and part of the steering committee
- ▲ Developing a standardized communication protocol between L2 - L3 and L3 - L4 (along with the **GS1 EPCIS\*** standard)
- ▲ Mission: PSS (Packaging Serialization Specification) allows functional **INTEROPERABILITY** across serialization-solution providers, organizations and regulatory bodies to seamlessly integrate their operations and business processes across their solutions using various system architecture!

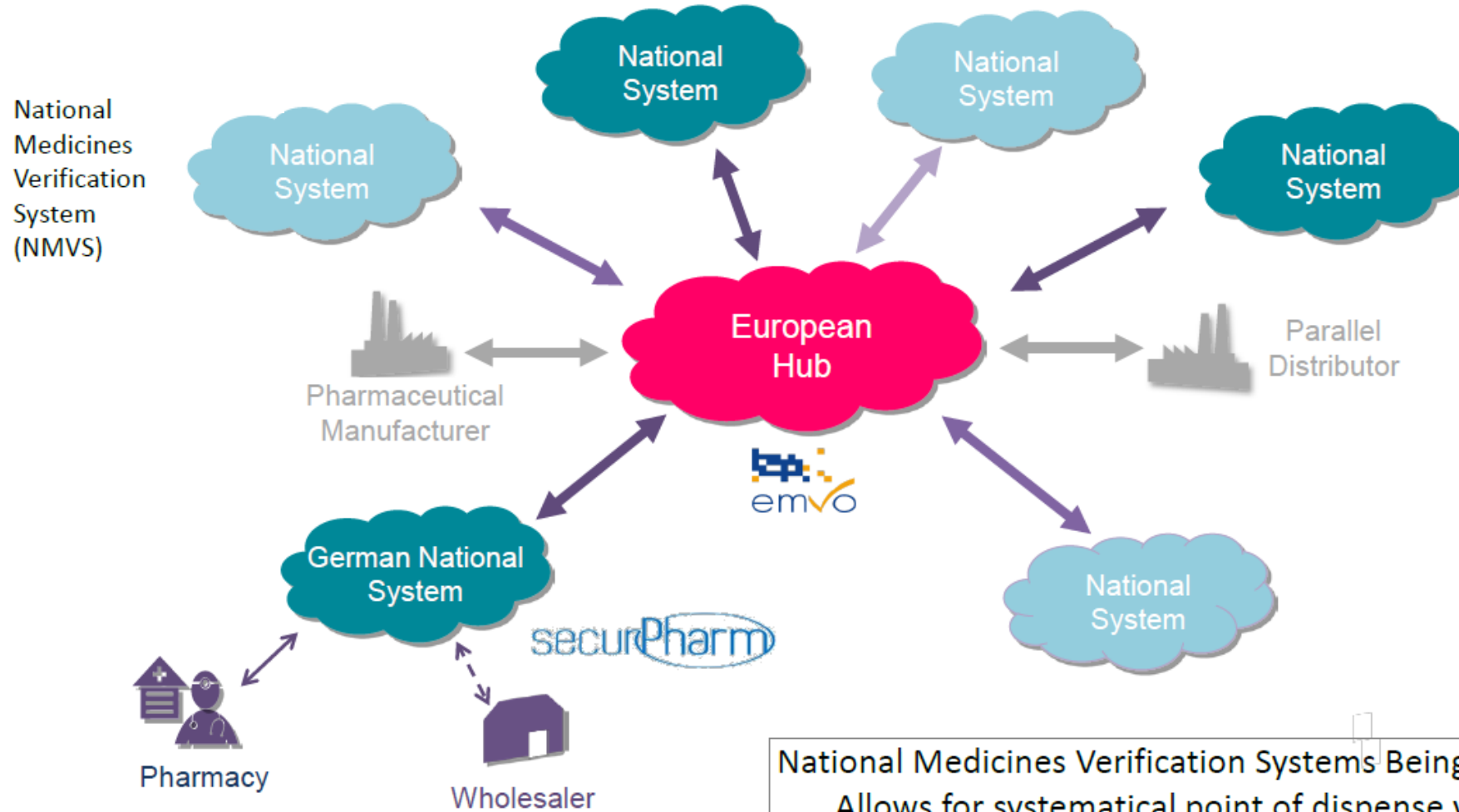
\*Companies will use the GS1 Common Business Vocabulary (CBV) and the EPCIS schema ([www.gs1.org/standards/epcis](http://www.gs1.org/standards/epcis)) and information exchange models. PSS defines the events and state changes in serialization **within a facility** and **many of the intra-plant interfaces are outside the data exchange scope of GS1's Electronic Product Code Information Specification (EPCIS)**. In order to ensure easy integration of the intra-plant serialization using OPEN-SCS communication models with the EPCIS message models, the GS1 CBV terminology has been used throughout the PSS. The OPEN-SCS PSS uses the GS1 ([www.gs1.org](http://www.gs1.org)) specified data identifiers and structure where appropriate.



<https://www.open-scs.org/>



# Best practice: HARMONIZATION – NATIONAL LEVEL



Source: efpia

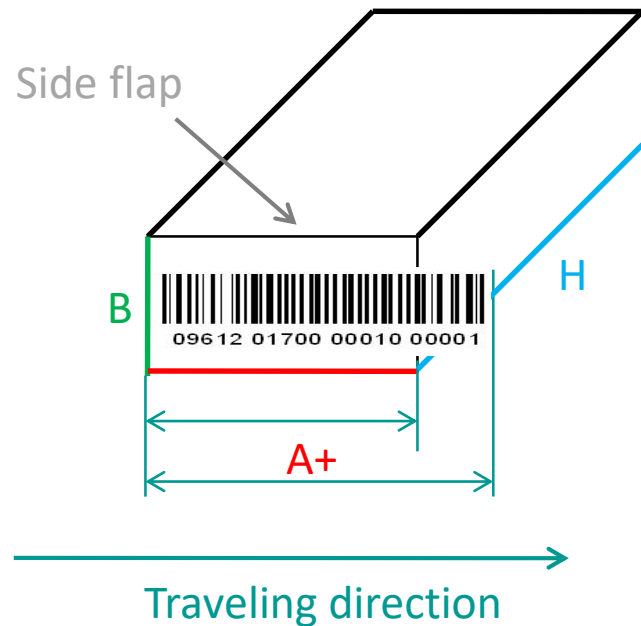
# Challenge: CORRECT INTERPRETATION



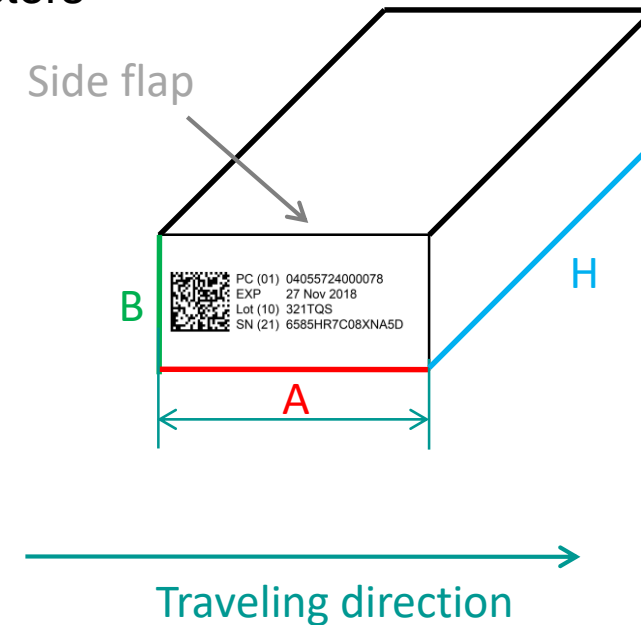
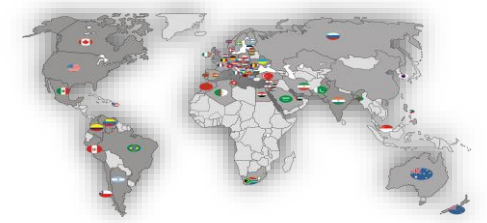


# Best practice: STANDARDIZATION – 1D vs. GS1 2D Coding

- ▲ Space consuming
- ▲ Proprietary and country specific approach
- ▲ Scanners to be “programmed” individually



- ▲ Very compact standardized solution
- ▲ ISO recognized
- ▲ Specified AI's
- ▲ Implemented across 25 industry sectors



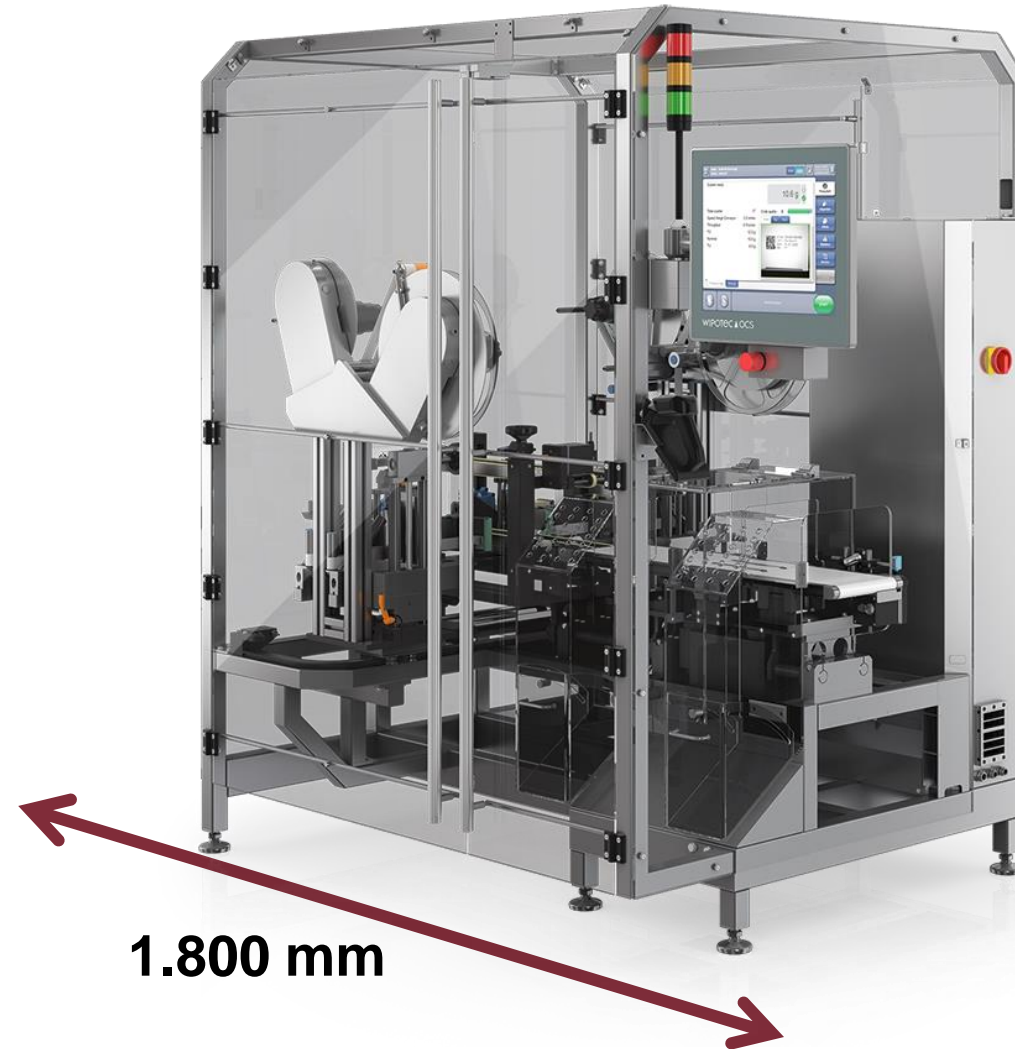
## Challenge: Lack of Space

- ▲ Production lines where designed at a time when serialization or even automation for bundle- or case packers was not given
- ▲ More and more machines came in over time
- ▲ Space for serialization or even aggregation is not foreseen



## Best Practice: COMPACT ALL-IN-ONE SOLUTIONS

- ▲ Serialization, tamper-evident labelling and weighing combined
- ▲ One unit to meet all market requirements – Globally!
- ▲ Huge space saving – from typically 4.000mm to 1.8mm



# How to profit long term?



# Poll 2

- ▲ In the beginning serialization will not lead to a better uptime of the lines due to the learning curve of all involved parties!
- ▲ Therefore it's important to invest in dedicated people, training and commitment towards the long term advantages, such as:
  - ▲ **Increasing OEE** by consequently using innovative interfaces to create much more visibility and continuously sharing statistical information!
  - ▲ **Improving product recall management.** Leveraging unit-based traceability allows companies to quickly locate and withdraw single units instead of full batches.
  - ▲ **Ensuring full supply chain visibility** by Blockchain technologies!



- ▲ **Ensuring product safety and traceability, enhances your brand image** by showing customers that you care about the authenticity and safety of your products.
- ▲ **Prevent product diversion and illegal trade.** Manufacturers lose millions due to parallel imports and re-importation.
- ▲ **Sharpen your reporting, forecasting and planning.** Product traceability enables collection and analysis of production, warehousing and supply chain data.
- ▲ **Gain a competitive edge.** Since consumers prefer products from brands they trust, ensuring the authenticity and integrity of your products is a vital step to offering you a significant advantage over your competition and placing your brand in the forefront of consumers' mind.



# Summary: Implementing Serialization – A challenging and multidisciplinary project

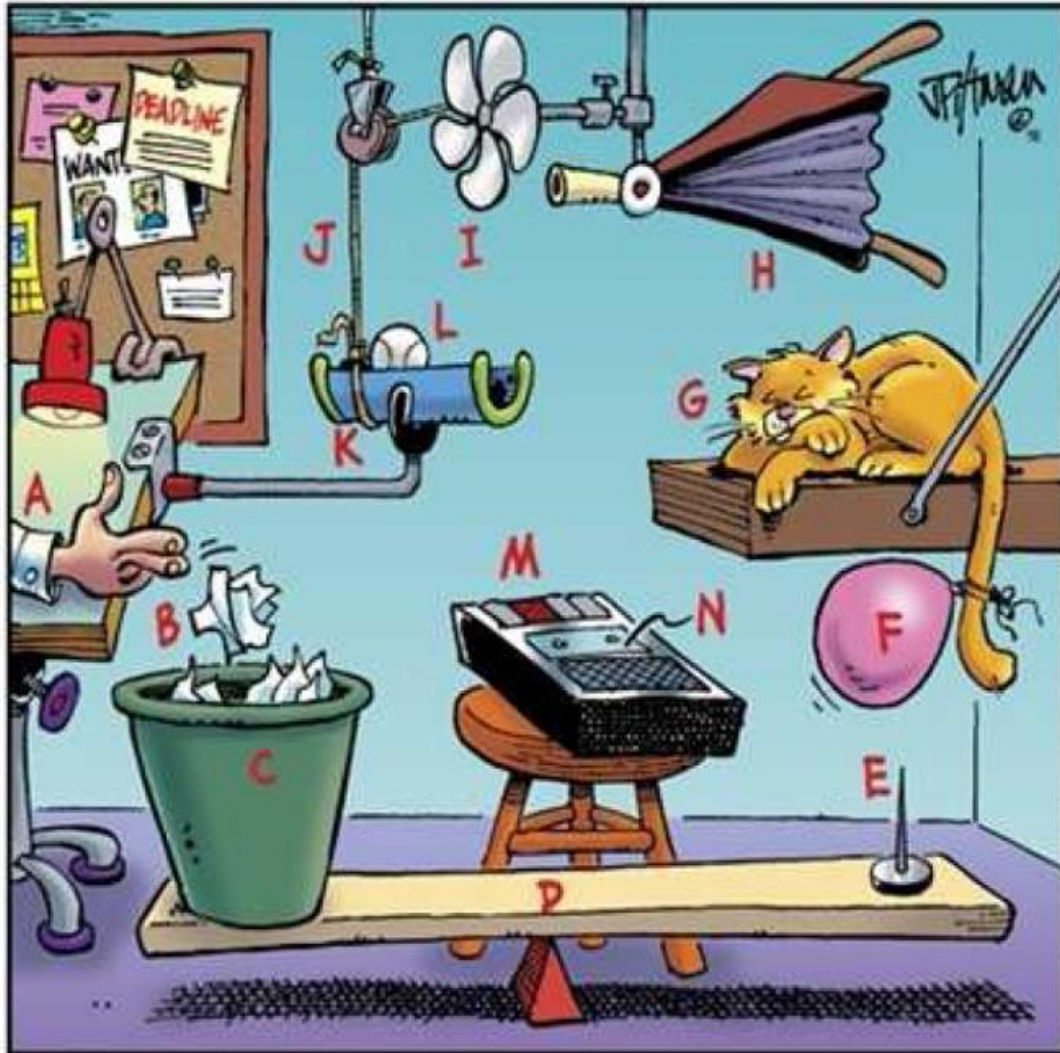


# A complex and multidisciplinary project

- ▲ The project cannot start without management commitment!
- ▲ Serialization is not a “ONE MAN SHOW”!
- ▲ Create a multidisciplinary project team!
- ▲ Make sure your team can invest time in the project!
- ▲ Don't see it as a burden, but make use of the OEE optimization and supply chain visibility advantages of T&T!



# What's Next?



## Start Now!

Responsible person **A** tosses upcoming T&T deadline memo **B** into trash bin **C** which causes board **D** to become unbalanced raising tack **E** to pop balloon **F** startling cat **G** who jumps up, pushing bellows **H**, thus blowing fan blades **I** which winds and shortens cord **J** lifting trough **K**, causing baseball **L** to roll down and onto PLAY button of recorder **M** which turns on subliminal message **N**:

**CALL WIPOTEC for HELP! ;-)**

# About WIPOTEC-OCS

# About WIPOTEC-OCS

- ▲ **COMPANY:** WIPOTEC-OCS GMBH
- ▲ **HEADQUARTERS:** KAISERSLAUTERN, GERMANY
- ▲ **EMPLOYEES:** GLOBALLY > 1.100
- ▲ **VERTICAL RANGE OF MANUFACTURING:** > 85%
- ▲ **BUSINESS:**
  - DYNAMIC IN-MOTION CHECKWEIGHING
  - EQUIPMENT FOR MAIL & LOGISTICS
  - X-RAY SYSTEMS FOR PRODUCT INSPECTION
  - **TRACK & TRACE SYSTEMS**
    - MORE THAN **3.000 TQS SYSTEMS**
    - OVER **1.900 PRODUCTION LINES**
    - MORE THAN 14 YEARS IN T&T BUSINESS
- ▲ **CAPACITY:** > 3.000 SOLUTIONS / YEAR – ALL PRODUCT LINES



**GUARANTEED RESOURCES TO BUILD 800+ TRACK & TRACE SYSTEMS / YEAR**



# Thank you for your attention!

**Volker Ditscher**  
**Director Global Sales Track & Trace**  
**[volker.ditscher@wipotec.com](mailto:volker.ditscher@wipotec.com)**

**[www.wipotec-ocs.com/en/solutions/track-trace](http://www.wipotec-ocs.com/en/solutions/track-trace)**

Disclaimer:

The illustrated and communicated information provided to the participants of the presentation is intended solely for internal company usage of the participants and not for the public or publications.

The WIPOTEC Group and the Speaker takes no responsibility for the correctness of this information.  
Copyright or other legal claims are excluded.

References to authors and documents are intended as an indication for the source. In all cases the indicated sources / authors have to ask for permission before using the material.