

Lead times halved

Coventry-based Tooling Intelligence has extended its role as the UK and Ireland agent for SupplyPro tool-vending systems. Managing director Mike Swaffield says: "The recruitment of additional staff has paved the way for system assembly at our Coventry site. This not only means that we can tailor units to users' precise requirements, but we can also supply them in half the time of US-sourced items. The new arrangement also allows us to make major savings in transportation costs and achieve a substantial reduction in the equipment's carbon footprint."

Tailored around a range of industrial storage hardware, Supply Pro systems are driven by a

simple-to-use touch-screen interface. A patented Web-based data management engine provides real-time information and allows system admin to be performed from any Web-enabled device. The software is hosted on behalf of the customer at data centres that are monitored round the clock, seven days a week.

SupplyPro SmartDrawer dispensers can be configured to accommodate a wide variety of products from different manufacturers, along with items such as inspection equipment, power or hand tools, welding consumables, maintenance spares or safety equipment. The user can specify the security level appropriate to each drawer.



Making train travel cool

A firm based in Leamington Spa has landed £30,000 in funding to help develop an innovative air-cooling system for trains. Industrial design consultants Creative Design is in the latter stages of developing the energy-efficient system, which is called Cab-cool. The system, which uses about a third of the energy of standard air-conditioning units, has already attracted interest from a series of national train operators, following the success of a similar product on the London Underground network. Once the product is formally launched, it is expected to attract orders worth millions of pounds.

In order to develop the product, the company applied for a special grant from the Advantage West Midlands Proof of Concept Fund and received £30,000 to help with prototyping, expert