



Van Happen Containers

Smart asset management in the waste processing industry

The customer

Van Happen Containers leases containers, provides transport services and has evolved from a pure waste collector to a circular supplier of raw materials.

The requirements

Van Happen wanted to expand on its position as the greenest waste processor around. But to do that, it needed to excel in managing assets and waste streams.

The solution

Thanks to the integrated IoT total solution, KPN Things, even more business assets can be monitored and tracked in real time and in an economically viable way.

The result

Van Happen's smart asset base has now made services more efficient, transparent and cost-effective for the organisation, its partners and its customers.

Asset management is a hot topic in the manufacturing industry. Deploying the Internet of Things (IoT) technology makes asset management smarter, more transparent and more sustainable. Leo Merks, CFO of Van Happen Containers, explains how digital innovation has transformed the waste processing chain.

The circular economy

'By separating and processing waste, and turning it back into raw materials, we are contributing to a cleaner living environment as part of the circular economy. So, we can make a semi-finished product out of commercial waste, which we can then use to make our new underground containers. We also transport household electricals to a regional sorting centre for our partner, WeCycle. From there, the containers are sent to a

'To maintain our growth, we wanted to excel in asset and waste stream management'

firm that processes the waste into new raw materials, allowing new products to be made from them. This creates a cycle of produce, use, dispose, recycle, produce, and so on. Our role as a pure waste collector is increasingly shifting towards a supplier of raw materials.'

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Smart waste processing

‘Our ambition is to become an increasingly smarter waste processor, thus optimising efficiency and sustainability across the entire waste processing chain. To maintain our growth, we wanted to excel in asset and waste stream management. This means digital innovation is a high priority.’

‘Together with KPN, we are making more and more assets smarter, thanks to the Internet of Things’

Going digital with asset management

‘By deploying KPN Things – a complete IoT solution that uses KPN’s LoRa network – we have found a cost-effective way to equip our assets with sensors and connect them to smart devices carried by our drivers and in our back office. Together with KPN, we are making more and more assets smarter, thanks to the Internet of Things. With KPN providing the connection, we can track and monitor our huge asset base in real time, in a way that is economically viable. Our data is also stored securely in KPN’s data centres in the Netherlands.’

Rolling out smart aboveground containers

‘We have around 11,000 operational aboveground containers on our customers’ premises. By making these smarter, we can see in real time where the containers are and how long they have been there – at just the push of a button. That makes the manufacturing process more transparent for the customer and reduces the administrative burden on our company.’

Digital innovation for underground containers

‘Another innovation project we’re working on is fitting our roughly 5,000 underground containers with sensors. On top of being able to determine their location, we can also measure how full the containers are. By analysing the big data, we can optimise the routes our drivers take, so containers need only be emptied when they reach the right level. That means they won’t overflow and cause waste to spill out of them. Our

drivers can find the container they need right away every time and the whole thing is taken off our customers’ hands.’

Van Happen’s digital ambition

‘Not just locating and emptying the containers will go digital, but the entire waste processing chain, including separation and production. By connecting more of our business assets, we can generate more and more data that we can combine. We can then use these data sets to optimise our core processes and interaction with partners and customers even further.’

‘We may be moving gradually, but we are fully committed to the transformation: the potential for growth in smart asset management is enormous’

Transforming the waste processing chain

‘This is just the beginning; ultimately, digital innovation leads to transformation of the entire waste processing chain. I expect 70% of the waste streams will be migrated to the circular economy within the next year. We may be moving gradually, but we are fully committed to the transformation: the potential for growth in smart asset management is enormous.’

Discover all the new opportunities with KPN

For further information please contact your KPN Account Manager or send an email to info-grootzakelijk@kpn.com.