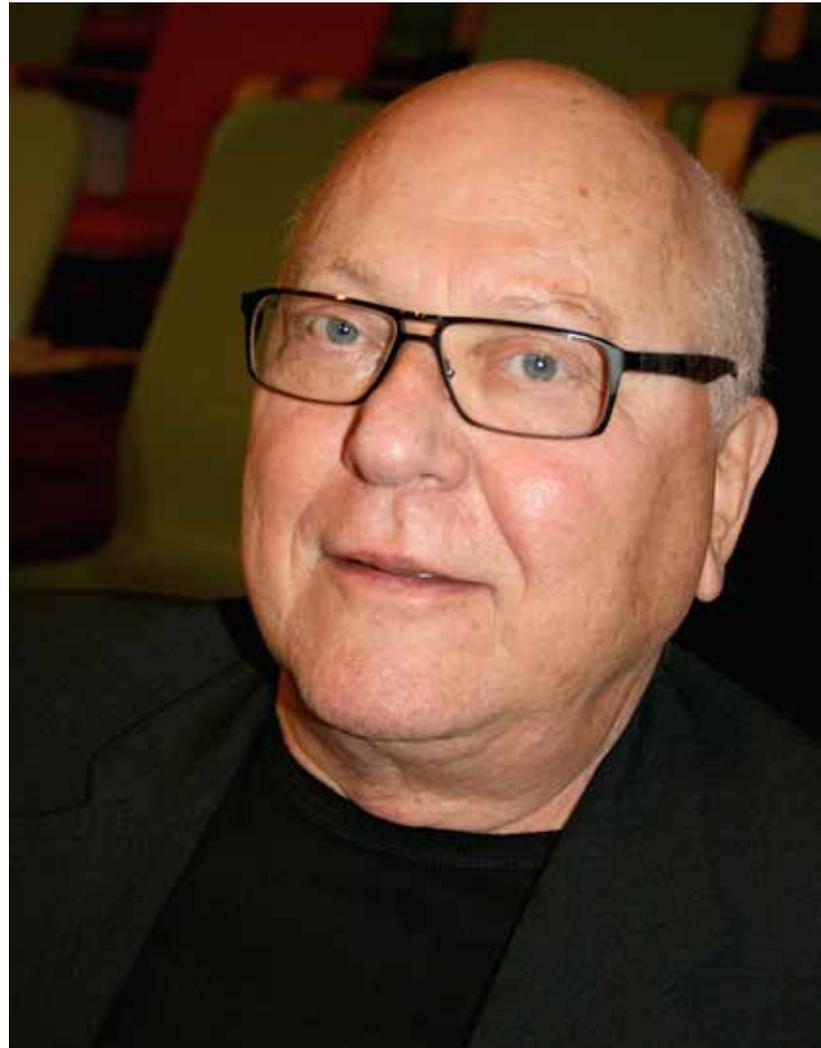


HOW A “DEAD” PRODUCT GETS NEW LIFE, HELPING CUSTOMERS OPTIMISING TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP



The black RFID reader (above left) had been produced and sold by the Baumer Ident company for many years. It had been widely accepted by customers, not only in Europe, but also in many countries abroad. In the middle of the year 2006, Baumer Ident was sold and a few years after the take-over, the new owner decided to discontinue the LF line of products and only concentrate on UHF products.



Now many customers were faced with a big problem, when replacements or repairs were needed, or when present installations needed expansion. Since LF systems came on the market already in the 70's, standardisation was not a big issue. Each manufacturer had his own way of handling the communication and energy transport between the reader and the transponder. The only thing that was common was the frequency - 125kHz.

Repairing old equipment was not possible, since some components were no longer available on the market. Expanding present installations would mean completely new equipment and new software, or at least very costly re-programming.

Last year we were approached by some customers, asking if we could not find a solution to the predicament of not having an equivalent to the Baumer reader.

The development of a totally new reader from scratch, was not an alternative, since it would incur too high costs.

Hence, we set out to scan the market for a suitable reader we could use as a base for a conversion. Having tested quite a number of different systems, we finally settled for a suitable reader we found in Germany.

It had the main criteria we needed, 2-channels to drive two separate antennas, all interface types we needed

i.e. RS232, RS485, RS422, Profibus DP and Ethernet/IP. Further and not the least important, the company was willing to cooperate with us to carry out a re-programming of their original command structure and substitute it for the Baumer commands.

This means that our customers will be able to use the new reader 1:1 without having to carry out any changes to their computer programs.

To further facilitate the integration of the new reader into existing systems, we have equipped the front of the reader with identical connectors as those that were installed on the Baumer reader.

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An additional positive feature was a change to the antenna circuitry, so that the Baumer antenna design could be kept unchanged.

The new reader can thus substitute a defect old reader without having to carry out any changes at all.

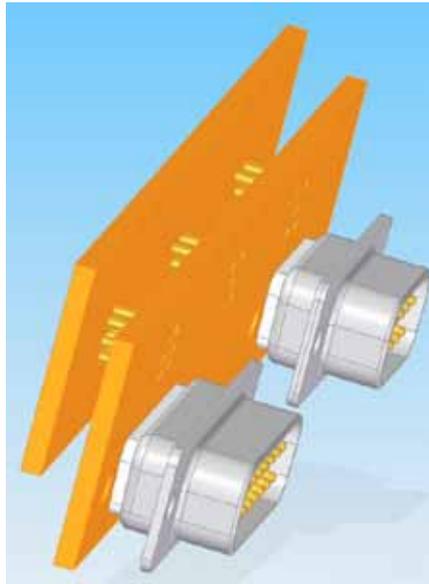
Let us take a closer look at some of the hardware changes we made, to make the conversion possible.

The first and obvious change was to find a way to change the communication connectors from the more modern M12 type back to the older configuration, using D-Sub connectors.



ORIGINAL COMMUNICATION BOARD.

By introducing a conversion board, we transferred the signals to the way they were arranged at the old Baumer reader's D-Subs.



SCHEMATICS OF THE TRANSFER BOARD.

Being a more modern design, the new reader engine offers some additional features, that were not available back when the Baumer reader was designed e.g:

- USB service interface Integrated
- Web server Micro SD memory
- expansion Integrated temperatur sensor

THE MAIN READER BOARD

By utilising existing hardware, but only making necessary changes and additions, it has been possible to develop a "new" reader within a very short time and keeping development costs at a moderate level.

The life span of the presently installed product base has thus been extended and will improve the customers' TCO considerably.



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