

The logo for Socius24, featuring the word "SOCIUS24" in white uppercase letters. The letter "O" is replaced by a red circular icon containing a white network diagram with three nodes and connecting lines.

SOCIUS24

The logo for Pricecheck, featuring a blue circular icon with three overlapping circles of varying shades of blue. To the right of the icon, the word "pricecheck" is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below "pricecheck", the words "international brand partners" are written in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font.

pricecheck
international brand partners

Case Study

How Socius24 Is Helping Pricecheck To Achieve Its Growth Ambitions.

“We are meeting and exceeding our business growth ambitions. We would not have been able to do so without Socius24 and Blue Yonder Dispatcher WMS.”

Mark Lythe, Joint Managing Director, **Pricecheck**

About Pricecheck

Pricecheck is a multi-award-winning international wholesaler and distributor of branded FMCG goods. It has more than 8,000 products in stock at any one time ranging from health & beauty, fragrance and toiletries to food & drink, alcohol, household and vaping.

Established in Sheffield in 1978, it now exports to more than 80 countries and provides a full supply chain solution whilst remaining true to the family values it was founded on - embracing technology, talent and trends to ensure it provides a world class service.

Background

Pricecheck's vision is to be the first choice distribution partner for brand owners and customers across the world. Its customer base is varied and ranges from big-name high street brands to small independents. Its plan is to double turnover within the next five years, to achieve this Pricecheck needed a solution that not only provided support for the scale of its current operation, but would not restrict its business growth strategy moving forward.

For Pricecheck, customer service is a key driver, with the aim to offer its customers the broadest range of stock from a diverse supplier list, and be able to achieve distribution within a 48-hour delivery window. To do this requires both agility and operational efficiency.



New Lines



Baby & Child



Beauty



Health & Wellbeing



Home & Electrical



Household



Pet Care



Toiletries



Vaping



Food & Drink



Fragrance



Gift Sets



“Socius24 brought the right people and the right software to help drive our IT solutions to where we wanted them to be. The solutions are fully scalable and very reliable and have given us the right technology platform to achieve our goals.”

Richard Thompson, IT Director, Pricecheck

Key Challenges

Pricecheck’s warehouse operations were run on paper-based manual systems with all of the inherent drawbacks. As a business, it had very limited visibility of real-time stock levels, orders being picked and staff productivity.

This paper-based approach meant that Pricecheck was unable to embrace any sizeable increase in order volume without the need to significantly increase staff numbers. Without a WMS in place, a three-stage picking process was required for certain types of orders to ensure accuracy. Daily manual checks of locations were needed to find free pallet space and there was no automated way to deal with product attributes such as ‘Best Before End’ (BBE) dates, batch management and restricted goods.

The result was that these manual operations were unable to provide the responsive service that Pricecheck wanted to deliver with most orders requiring a three-day lead-time.

Key Requirements



Visibility: Pricecheck was looking to gain greater visibility into its operation, to enable better informed decision making and help buying teams to work closer with brand owners.



Operational Efficiency: A solution was required to drive greater efficiencies, not just reducing lead-times, but also driving quality and improving utilisation of warehouse space.



Scale & Agility: Pricecheck needed a solution that would enable it to scale both in terms of order volumes, but also extend its product lines in the region of 12,000 – 15,000 products.

Solutions Delivered

Socius24 implemented the Blue Yonder Dispatcher WMS, along with its User Service Portal (USP) into two Pricecheck warehouses in South Yorkshire: its 133,000 sq ft head office in Beighton, Sheffield and its newly leased second warehouse nearby in Manvers, Rotherham which is 245,000 sq ft.



1. Visibility & Traceability

With Blue Yonder Dispatcher WMS and USP, Pricecheck gains 100% traceability and 100% visibility over all aspects of its warehouses. Through USP dashboards it can manage productivity picking rates and be proactive in spotting and addressing issues.



2. Stock Management

Dispatcher WMS is optimising stock so Pricecheck has the right levels of inventory in the right locations, plus enough pickfaces to fulfil all orders in a timely manner and eliminate the duplication of stock across facilities.



3. Picking Automation

The solution enables Pricecheck to automate the way it picks and puts away orders. Dispatcher WMS takes care of walk sequence and utilises a range of specific picking methods depending on the items and the customers they are picking for.



4. Integration & Reporting

Dispatcher WMS is fully integrated into Pricecheck's back-office systems to digitally connect the operation. USP is being used to deliver key management information in the form of dashboards and reports that enable more informed decision making.

Outcome

Blue Yonder Dispatcher WMS has totally transformed operations at Pricecheck; it has provided the visibility and traceability that just wasn't possible with manual systems and has increased efficiencies across every part of the process, from receiving stock to fulfilling orders:

STREAMLINE ORDER FULFILMENT

Through the introduction of Blue Yonder Dispatcher WMS, Pricecheck has been able to reduce the lead time on order fulfilment from three days to two days across customer orders.

INCREASED EFFICIENCY & QUALITY

Pricecheck has been able to optimise the efficiency of operatives by automating business logic within Dispatcher WMS to deliver structured pick and put-away routines which reduces errors and improves quality of orders.

INCREASED VISIBILITY

The Socius24 USP has unlocked a wealth of information and insights within Blue Yonder Dispatcher WMS that is easily accessible across the business. Buyers and brand owners have the insights they need to align selling strategies and managers have far greater control over the operation.

ENABLING GROWTH

The depth of functionality provided by Blue Yonder Dispatcher WMS is enabling Pricecheck to expand its operation, not only significantly increasing order throughput, but also to grow the range of products it offers to clients.



“We asked Socius24 to develop a solution to allow receiving on mobile tablet. We wanted to be able to get into a container and make updates to pre-advise receipts on the fly, to add new pack configs, and take pictures of any damages. Socius24 provided us with its USP App which has significantly reduced the time taken to unload a container.”

Mark Amos, Operations Director, Pricecheck

“Working with Pricecheck has been a real pleasure. They went live at both sites simultaneously and without issue. Its growth plans are being realised and the Blue Yonder Dispatcher WMS and our USP app have played their part in helping the team achieve that. We look forward to bigger and better things with Pricecheck.”

Craig Jones, Managing Partner, Socius24

Blue Yonder Dispatcher Warehouse Management System

Blue Yonder is one of the most recognisable and implemented solutions in the world.

Socius24's expertise comes from our involvement in the design and development of the original RedPrairie Dispatcher solution, which enables us to fast-track deployment and ensure that our clients use its capabilities to the full. This reduces the cost and risk of deployment, leveraging a broad set of pre-built templates and plug-ins, allowing our customers to quickly gain the functionality they require.

Benefits of this solution include:



USER FRIENDLY INTERFACE

A user-friendly interface that is tailored to your business with extra functionality available as you grow at a national or global level.



TRACEABILITY

Traceability is critical for some industries, so you will know where your stock is from and information about serial numbers, expiry dates. This all helps particularly if there is a need for a batch recall.



INCREASED VISIBILITY


Increased visibility of your inventory from the moment it enters your warehouse or is manufactured to the point of sale.





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