

## Press release

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### **Warehouse management: Hardis Group files a patent for an inventory-taking drone**

**With this innovation, logisticians can automate inventory in warehouses, and identify and correct storage errors throughout the year.**

Grenoble, January 26, 2015 - Hardis Group, the digital services company and business software publisher, unveiled the content of the patent that it has filed: an on-board system on a drone to automate stock taking and inventory control operations in warehouses.

#### **An indoor drone for logistics**

While drones have already sharpened the most fertile imaginations for outdoor use in all fields, indoor uses are still marginal. For Hardis Group, particularly because of their size and their ability to hover and fly laterally, their use in warehouses opens up new prospects for logistics: this was how the inventory-taking drone project was born.

This innovation has several components: a device that allows the drone to move autonomously by means of integrated mapping of the warehouse and a predetermined flight plan. This is coupled with a system for identifying and capturing - with an on-board camera - the information to be treated in order to make the inventory, for associating the image with its position in the warehouse (indoor geolocation) and automatically translating its 3D position into a logistics address (storage location).

#### **A permanent inventory and reduced risk of errors**

The system developed by Hardis Group is able to recognize and control the relevant data for the inventory. So when several logistics labels are placed on a pallet (the provider's, the carrier's, the warehouseman's, etc.) the drone is able to identify the one that is useful for inventory control. The on-board technology can handle all barcode formats on the market.

The information collected by the on-board systems on the drone (barcode data and position in the warehouse) can be used by any warehouse management software (Warehouse Management Systems, WMS) on the market.

With this innovation, a daily inventory made every night, for example, is about to become a reality in warehouses. This "permanent" inventory will provide logisticians with accurate visibility of these goods in the warehouse, and the ability to quickly identify and correct storage errors.

#### **About Hardis Group**

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Created in 1984, Hardis Group performs a dual role of software publisher and IT consulting and services company supporting its clients in the digitization of their services. Hardis is not like other companies. From the very outset, its growth has been founded on a pragmatic approach, local values and an unwavering commitment to both its customers and its employees. In fact, Hardis' founders continue to manage the company to this day, with 25% of its employees holding shares in the business and 100% of its workforce based in France.

Hardis focuses on seven major sectors: Cloud infrastructure and management; development and third-party application maintenance (TPAM); consulting and project owner support, logistics and transport (Reflex package), development tools (Adelia Studio) and payroll outsourcing (Saphyr application).

As a software developer, Hardis is capable of integrating its own solutions, and can also call on the services of a network of partners. Its consultants master the main methodologies for quality IT projects such as ITIL, CMM, etc.

Hardis posted turnover figures of €54.7 million in 2012. The Group currently has more than 2,500 customers and 630 employees. Based in Grenoble, Hardis has four other agencies in Lyon, Paris, Lille and Nantes.

[www.hardis.fr](http://www.hardis.fr)

#### **Press contacts**

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