

Touchscreens ensure Tesco car parks only for customers

Tesco has introduced new technology to ensure only customers use its free parking.

Starting at its Truro store, Tesco installed 10 touchscreens in its car park. Cameras log the registration of every vehicle that enters. After a shop, customers are given a voucher. They enter their reg and scan the voucher to validate their parking. The terminals fine anyone who takes more than two hours or spends less than £3 in Tesco. Anyone who does not scan a voucher will be written to by the DVLA and fined after a number of offences.

Metric, the company behind the screens, said Tesco has since also installed 13 terminals at its Slough store and has ordered terminals for a further two stores.

Germ-busting trolleys in Brazil supermarket

Andrew Don

Antimicrobial copper has been used to develop a new germ-busting supermarket trolley being rolled out in South America.

Varanda Frutas, a gourmet supermarket in Sao Paulo, Brazil, uses antimicrobial copper in brass handles to help reduce the spread of disease-causing pathogens.

The material is claimed to be effective against the spread of a host of nasties, including *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Helicobacter pylori*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *MRSA*, *Norovirus*, *Salmonella enteritidis* and *E.coli*.

Surfaces made from solid antimicrobial copper are used



Varanda Frutas has rolled out the trolleys in Sao Paulo

by healthcare facilities around the world to reduce the spread of infections such as *MRSA*.

"Our main aim is to protect our customers' health by reducing bacteria and viruses on these surfaces," said marketing manager for Varanda Frutas Mauricio Chairvolotti.

spread of germs via supermarket trolleys. In 2012, VanCom AntiBac, a UK developer of antibacterial applications, launched a transparent film that could fit around trolley handles. The film used silver ion technology to prevent bacteria from living on trolleys. The company said at the time that the coating would last five years and even suggested retailers could sell advertising on the film.

However, despite widespread coverage in national print and broadcast media, founder Mark Doherty said he only received one response from his approaches to the UK supermarkets and this did not result in the product being taken up.

Bidvest brings PCL into its logistics arm

Bidvest 3663 has fully integrated PCL into its logistics business, the foodservice giant has revealed.

The company acquired PCL – a specialist chilled products storage and distribution business – in July last year. It has the option to increase its interest in the business "over time".

Releasing its half-year accounts this week, parent company Bidvest Group said its UK-based business Bidvest Logistics showed "continued growth" during

the period. The accounts also revealed its Bidvest Fresh arm acquired Irish fresh and frozen supplier McKenna Fish Sales in November and would now focus on expanding produce and meat. It had achieved "pleasing results" in the half-year, buoyed by good contributions from Seafood and Oliver Kay, it said.

Bidvest 3663's sales rose 23.6% to 23.9bn rand (£1.3bn) in the six months to 31 December 2014. It also notched up a 44.9% increase in profits to 521.5m rand (£28.9m).

Marks & Spencer covers Castle Donington roof in solar panels

M&S has completed the installation of what it claims is the UK's largest single roof-mounted solar panel array on its 900,000 sq ft non-food distribution centre in Castle Donington, Leicestershire.

The solar photovoltaic (PV) array is expected to generate more than 5,000 MWh of electricity annually, which M&S says is enough to power 1,190 houses.

The structure comprises 24,272 PV panels which, if laid end to end, would stretch 25 miles.



The panels will generate 5,000-plus MWh per year

M&S said the solar panels would lower the company's carbon footprint by 48,000 tonnes over 20 years.

It will help the retailer maintain its commitment to sourcing all its electricity for UK and Ireland

properties from renewable sources, with half sourced from small-scale renewables by 2020.

"This is the first significant step in a number of solar energy initiatives. The scale of the project demonstrates our ambitious goals and long-term commitment to on-site renewable energy," said M&S director of property Hugo Adams.

M&S has signed a 20-year power purchase agreement with Amber Infrastructure to buy all the electricity the solar panels generate.