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RFID Is Poised for Widespread Adoption

By Mark Roberti

Dec. 4, 2006—I've just returned from Montreal and Toronto, where I spoke to members of two chapters of the International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineers (ISPE). During my

presentation, I spelled out some of the things that need to happen before radio frequency identification will be widely used to track drugs in the global supply chain. These included:

- E-pedigree standards must be established
- The pharmaceutical industry must agree on which frequency to use or that both HF and UHF will be used
- Prices of tags and interrogators must fall further
- System performance needs to be more consistent
- Standards for sharing data must be established
- And pharmaceutical companies must
 - Agree on standards for sharing data
 - Learn how to filter massive amounts of data and turn it into useful information
 - Integrate data with back-end systems
 - Change business processes to gain value from RFID systems