



Hey look, a big tricked-out price tag!



AROUND THE REGION

Chip design firm inks deal with Airbus

By Hiawatha Bray

Globe Staff / January 19, 2010

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Tego Inc., a chip design firm in Waltham, has won a seven-year contract to provide radio frequency identification chips, or RFIDs, to European aircraft maker Airbus. Tego president Timothy Butler estimates the company will receive at least \$5 million over the duration of the contract.

The Tego chips will be attached to thousands of parts in Airbus's A350 jet, due to enter service in 2011. RFID chips are used to tag objects with identification data that can be read by a device emitting radio waves. But the Tego tags can hold much more data than standard RFID tags and can be updated with new information.

Every time a part undergoes maintenance or repair, a record of the event can be added to the Tego tag, so the information travels with the part throughout its life.

Butler said that Tego has developed the technology with major aircraft part suppliers, and with both Airbus and its archrival, Boeing Co. He said that both Airbus and Boeing hope to use the technology in their future aircraft. ■

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