RFiD

RFID is an electronic barcode. It enables contactless payments and travel passes.

- Early prototypes date from around 1945 in Germany. Today readers can be seen everywhere, for example at checkouts and on public transport.

- At its simplest an RFiD tag broadcasts a code, and that is all. It is not self-sufficient and requires a reader to work.

- The tag itself is only one half of RFiD. The reader is the other half, and one will not work without the other. They must be close together to function, less than 10cm.

- RFID is nothing at all to do with satellites, tracking in the GPS sense, or geolocation. There is one specialist example of use of an early type of RFiD for eavesdropping on an ambassador in 1945. However this used specialised equipment from a distance of around 200 metres.

- It is sometimes used in supply chains for inventory tracking.