Bibliotheca RFID Library Systems, in collaboration with its local partner AIDA Centre, has installed the most extensive RFID project in Spain to date. The Biblioteca Tomás Navarro Tomás in Madrid is the largest academic library within the CSIC network, which is an association of 78 libraries in all. CSIC, Spanish National Research Council, is Spain’s biggest and most important public research institution, comprising 126 research centers and 145 associated research units.

The Biblioteca Tomás Navarro Tomás opened its doors in March 2008 from a merger of eight individual libraries. With well over a million media, the TNT today holds the most important collection in the field of social sciences and the humanities. Forty per cent of holdings are open access. In July 2008 the library was also opened to external academics.

“When we planned the library, we imagined a kind of huge information supermarket where users could choose from shelves with thousands of media and use the check-out and return facilities completely independently. What is more, the 11 kilometers of shelving devoted to open access holdings and the 23 kilometers of reference holdings were to be secured in the best possible way,” comments Agnes Ponsati, director of the CSIC Library Coordination Unit. “Of course we were only prepared to consider state-of-the-art technology.” The library opted for an all-inclusive solution, including the installation of four Jupiter SelfChecks, as well as single and double gates including the GateTracker software. The installed return unit is in operation 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A mobile manual reading device, BiblioWand, will facilitate inventory and the search for mislaid media in future, too. A total of 390,000 RFID BookLabels and 4,500 Complete Solutions for CDs/DVDs were applied. RFID user cards are also in use.

The AIDA/Bibliotheca team has proven itself as a good RFID partner, providing a professional foundation for future projects within the CSIC network.

The BiblioReturn is in operation round the clock, 365 days a year.

Library director Pilar Martínez Olmo and vice director Carmela Pérez-Montes have gone for self-service.

Conclusion: the AIDA/Bibliotheca team has proven itself as a good RFID partner, providing a professional foundation for future projects within the CSIC network.