CLAIMS

1. A system for encoding RFID devices and dispensing articles, comprising:

a storage module for storing RFID devices and other articles;

an input module for receiving user input;

a processing module for generating user data based on the received user input;

an encoding module for encoding the generated user data onto one or more RFID devices stored in the storage module; and

one or more dispensing modules for dispensing one or more encoded RFID devices and one or more other articles stored in the storage module, wherein the one or more encoded RFID devices is matched with the one or more other articles prior to dispensation.

2. The system apparatus of claim 1, wherein the system is a vending machine.

3. The system apparatus according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the generated user data which is encoded onto the one or more RFID devices is a race number or some other data which uniquely identifies a user in a race event.

4. The system apparatus of claim 3, wherein the user input is received on at least one of:

a manual entry of at least one of an online registration number, a booking number, and the user's name; and

a barcode number scan from at least of a piece of paper and the user's mobile phone.

5. The system apparatus according to claims 3, wherein the other article is an item associated with the race event.

6. The system apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the item is at least one of a race bib bearing the race number of the user and a t-shirt of the user's correct size.

7. The system apparatus according to claims 3, wherein the other article is an item not associated with the race event.

8. The system apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the item is at least one of a snack and a drink.

9. The system apparatus according to one of claims 1-8, wherein the input module is at least one of a touchscreen, a barcode reader, and an alphanumeric keyboard.

10. The system apparatus according to claims 1-9, wherein the RFID device contains at least one of an RFID tag, an RFID label, and an RFID chip.

11. A method for encoding RFID devices and dispensing articles with a system, the method comprising:

generating user data based on user input entered into an input module of the system;

encoding the generated user data onto one or more RFID devices stored in a storage module of the system; and

dispensing the one or more encoded RFID devices and one or more other articles stored in the storage module, wherein the one or more encoded RFID devices is matched with the one or more other articles prior to dispensation.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the system is a vending machine.

13. The method according to claims 11 or 12, wherein the generated user data which is encoded onto the one or more RFID devices is a race number or some other data which uniquely identifies a user in a race event.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the user input is entered on at least one of:

a manual entry of at least one of an online registration number, a booking number, and the user's name; and

a barcode number scan from at least of a piece of paper and the user's mobile phone.

15. The method according to claims 13, wherein the other article is an item associated with the race event.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the item is at least one of a race bib bearing the race number of the user and a t-shirt of the user's correct size.

17. The method according to claims 13, wherein the other article is an item not associated with the race event.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the item is at least one of a snack and a drink.

19. The method according to one of claims 11-18, wherein the input module is at least one of a touchscreen, a barcode reader, and an alphanumeric keyboard.

20. The method according to claims 11-19, wherein the RFID device contains at least one of an RFID tag, an RFID label, and an RFID chip.