

Press release. 24 May 2017

WSP|PB saves time and money with Panasonic FZ-B2 tablets from Spirit

Following discussions with Spirit Data Capture Limited, the independent mobile enterprise specialist, WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff (WSP|PB) has purchased Panasonic's FZ-B2 tablets. These are being used to capture borehole data and have already led to faster processes and a greater consistency and quality of data.

WSP|PB is one of the world's leading consultancies in engineering professional services. Its Smart Consulting department delivers innovation and technology to external and internal clients. The department recently started searching for rugged Android tablets which its teams could use in the field and which could run the company's Flowfinity-based data capture system. This is used to develop and deploy field data collection forms on the tablet and syncs data back to the office.

Spirit Data Capture has been working closely with WSP|PB for the last three years, so the department asked for Spirit's help in sourcing suitable tablets, which needed to be capable of withstanding harsh outdoor conditions. They also needed a strong battery life so that users could work for a full day without having to recharge them.

Spirit made recommendations and supplied a few demonstration models. WSP|PB subsequently chose the Panasonic FZ-B2 Toughpad, a fully rugged Android™ 6.0 tablet with a 7-inch outdoor display. It's a very energy-efficient and versatile mobile solution, with a ten-finger multi-touch display, flexible configurable ports and

business expansion capability. Spirit also supplied a full range of Panasonic accessories and provided WSP|PB with technical support.

Anthony Jones, the department's GIS Manager, says: "The Panasonic brand convinced users that these are top-of-the range tablets, and also alleviated their fears about any data loss. Two other great benefits are the three-year warranty and the battery life, with options to extend it further by using hot-swappable batteries."

The tablets are being employed to capture borehole drilling records and subsequent environmental monitoring data from the boreholes. They have also been used to access other features, such as mapping, email, Skype for Business and timesheets, whilst the workers are at the site.

Anthony continues: "The Panasonic tablets have been working perfectly. We estimate that we've already saved some 30 days of manual typing and the quality and consistency of the data has also improved." WSP|PB believes that developing such smarter working methodologies and gaining greater insight into the data will help to improve the decision-making process and enhance its customer service.

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