MINESITE COMMUNICATIONS

Able to endure hard knocks

Start

Panasonic Australia has released a new fullyrugged tablet device specifically designed to withstand the harsh environments encountered by workers in the resources industry.

Designed for use by mobile field workers, Panasonic's FZ-G1 Toughpad is an ultra-thin (19mm) and lightweight (1.1kg), fully-rugged tablet with a 10.1-inch, 10-point multi-touch and digitiser screen display.

The device runs Windows 8 software and has been certified as suitable for use in hazardous Zone 2 industrial environments.

"The mining sector in Australia is increasingly using mobile devices for capturing and delivering field data and for integrating people, processes and technology," Panasonic Australia Toughbook Group Manager Marc Amelung said.

"Given the difficult and hazardous working environment of the sector, mobile devices are exposed to some of the toughest operational conditions, such as extreme temperatures, heat, dust, vibration and rough handling."

The Toughpad FZ-G1 shares its DNA with the Toughbook family of products from Panasonic, which is known for its ergonomic and durable product designs.

Mr Amelung said Panasonic's Toughbook computers and Toughpad tablets were designed to endure the rigours of tough workplaces, regularly withstanding drops, knocks and blows that would likely destroy other consumer products.

"A lot of businesses think the replacement cost of a damaged device is the biggest financial headache they face. Panasonic has found that purchase price accounts for only roughly a quarter of that cost when using a consumer-grade device," he said.

"Much more significant are other costs such as employee downtime, delivery of service suffering when the device is down and IT support."

Mr Amelung said the Toughpad's high degree of reliability and durability – compared to consumergrade tablets – reduced the risk of failure and made for a much smarter financial decision over the lifetime of the device.

"Higher productivity and a better return on investment reduce the total cost of ownership," he said.

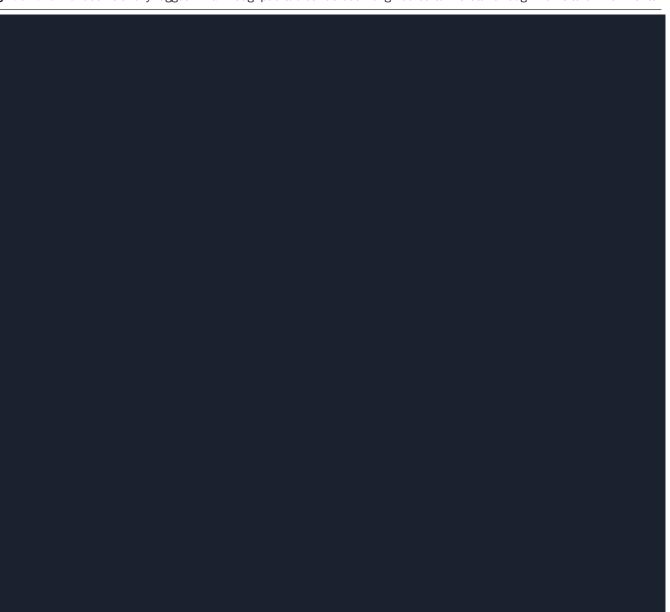
Radio expert offers unique solutions for minesite operations

With a long history of supplying radio networks and equipment to the mining and oil and gas industries, Radlink's expertise and experience means the company is uniquely positioned to tackle the special challenges faced by these sectors.

Radlink specialises in designing and building advanced radio networks and applications which can increase communication, safety and operational efficiencies.



Toughbook family of products from Panasonic, Tough as nails: Panasonic's fully-rugged FZ-G1 Toughpad tablet has been engineered to withstand rough worksite environments.



These new radio technologies go far beyond voice communication to include using smartphone capabilities to deliver data and commands which can streamline many aspects of existing operations.

Additionally, Radlink offers its clients the ability to go further with their current radio infrastructure by implementing specific applications and technologies. For example, processes can be automated with the use of sensor monitors, staff safety can be enhanced using GPS location services and emergency warning messages can be both written and voiced.

As an independent operator, Radlink is able to provide the right solution for its clients every time.

Radlink's managers evaluate and supply a variety of competing brands, thereby allowing its engineers to custom design networks which are best suited to an individual client's needs without being limited by choice of equipment, radio standards, software or technology.

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