

# Able to endure hard knocks

Panasonic Australia has released a new fully-rugged 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 consumer-grade 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.

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**Tough as nails:** Panasonic's fully-rugged FZ-G1 Toughpad tablet has been engineered to withstand rough worksite environments.

