Panasonic Improves The Performance, Battery Life And Connectivity Of Its Rugged Healthcare & Field Worker Tablets

Submitted by: C8 Consulting

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BRACKNELL, UK. 17 JULY 2012 - Panasonic today announced the latest technology and feature updates for its specialist rugged healthcare and field worker tablets which will improve performance, battery life and connectivity in the Toughbook CF-H2 models available from August 2012.

The CF-H2 comes in two distinct models designed specifically to meet the needs of medical professionals in healthcare and field workers in utility industries. The CF-H2 Health is designed to allow doctors and nursing staff instant access to medical records at the point of care, record accurate documentation on patient conditions and medication, and enable greater efficiency of clinical processes.

The CF-H2 Field has been designed for utility and field service engineers who have to work in all weathers and often in cramped conditions. With its rugged, ergonomic design, long battery life and anti-reflective daylight view screen, the Toughbook touchscreen tablet is the ideal tool to access applications and data in the most difficult mobile environments. The combination of portability and connectivity improves workflow and productivity in the field, at the point of service.

Both upgraded CF-H2 models are now powered by the 3rd generation Intel® Core™ i5-3427U vPro™ processor (1.8GHz, up to 2.8GHz with Intel® Turbo Boost Technology) with Intel® HD 4000 graphics. As well as the new CPU, the CF-H2 is also equipped with a low voltage DDR3L RAM module, using less power for more efficiency and a longer battery life. Hard Disk Drive capacity has also been raised from 160GB to 320GB with 128GB SSD as an option.

Efficiencies combine to offer longer battery life
These latest Panasonic and Intel efficiencies combine to ensure the battery life of the Toughbook CF-H2 has been extended by half an hour, allowing mobile workers to work for up to 7 hours (MobileMarkTM 2007, 60cd/m²) running on Windows® 7 without a recharge by using the hot swappable, high-capacity twin-batteries. The CF-H2 charges its 2 batteries at the same time, in a rapid parallel mode, for faster charge times (approx 3 hours).

All units also use the Panasonic Power Management Utilities technology to maximize power efficiency by managing the power of all relevant resources required by the CPU depending on each task or by definition of individual user profiles.

Both Toughbooks benefit from the latest Bluetooth® connection for mobile workers
Both new Toughbooks include the latest Bluetooth® 4.0 Smart Ready technology to connect mobile workers faster and more efficiently. Bluetooth® 4.0 (class 1) is fully compatible with Bluetooth® 2.1. Bluetooth® 4.0 Low Energy provides quick connection set-up and improved power consumption.

In addition, both Toughbooks come equipped with a SuperSpeed USB 3.0 port, enabling data transfer rates up to 10 times faster than Hi-Speed USB 2.0.

Both devices also continue to offer an optional Ericsson F5521gw HSPA+ (DL: 21 Mbps) module with wireless

ready connection manager. It includes a dedicated wireless switch allowing users to switch connections on and off to improve operating time. Available upon request, the device can also be switched into Anti-Theft-Protection mode by choosing the latest Intel® AT technology.

Ergonomically designed for mobile workers
The CF-H2 is designed for workers who need to multi-task whilst holding the device in one hand. Lightweight rugged design (approx. 1.58kg*), with an easy-to-grab handle, the fanless device maintains a low surface temperature using its unique heat dissipation system and is available as a dual touch (digitiser and touchscreen) and touchscreen model.

The CF-H2 Health model has also been designed for easy disinfection, reducing the risk of infections being spread from patient to patient. Its fanless design limits the opportunity for germs to be transported by the device and the CF-H2 Health model features a smooth surface with sealed buttons and no exposed ports. Panasonic has also developed a special exterior case material, which can withstand frequent alcohol wipes. To further aid in disinfection, a Panasonic-designed software utility can be programmed to remind users to wipe the unit down at defined intervals and automatically records a successful cleaning for the hospital's permanent records.

In healthcare or field operations, CF-H2 remains the toughest rugged tablet in its range. It is drop tested and has water, dust, vibration and temperature protection giving it an IP54, MIL STD 810G rating.

The best screen visibility on the market
The CF-H2 always ensures the screen delivers just the right level of brightness for optimum viewing whatever the conditions, inside or out. To achieve premium visibility the CF-H2 uses a 10.1" display with Panasonic Transflective Plus technology. This operating mode helps to reduce power consumption and enhance battery life as no backlight is required in bright environments. This results in a massive enhancement of up to 6,000cd/m² equivalent of transflective brightness under a 200K lx environment.

Functionality to fit every purpose
For maximum productivity, mobile workers need to be able to perform a wide range of tasks and the CF-H2 is ideally suited. Optional Barcode readers are available to assist with data capture requirements. For taking photos, the CF-H2 features an optional auto focus and 3.0 megapixel camera with LED flash. For using Audio Applications whilst working, the CF-H2 features a front speaker to enhance audio capability.

As well as its USB 3.0 port, the CF-H2 comes with a LAN and serial port (optional 2nd USB port in lieu of LAN port available) directly integrated within the device for workers needing interfaces to connect devices and peripherals for data capture and communication purposes.

The CF-H2 also has all the options covered to ensure data remains secure. Quick user authentication can be achieved using the optional fingerprint reader for enhanced security. There is also an optional contactless smartcard reader available, which is compliant with ISO 14443 type A and type B, or an integrated, contact smartcard reader** covered and sealed with its own latch for maximum protection and security.

Improved system start-up

To maximise the efficiency of health and field workers, the CF-H2 also includes Panasonic's Quick Boot Manager, which can reduce the boot-up time of the device down to approximately 15 seconds***.

Compatibility that counts
To ensure existing customers can continue to use existing peripheral equipment, the new CF-H2 is compatible with many of the CF-H1 peripherals such as docking stations in order to provide long-term product lifecycle stability.

Backed by outstanding service
Every Toughbook comes with a 3-year warranty covering hardware failures for systems used as designed; with a 96-hour repair commitment and a 5-year spare parts guarantee.

Availability and pricing
The CF-H2 range is available from August 2012, starting at €1.898 MSRP (excluding vat).

Photos of both products can be downloaded at:
http://business.panasonic.co.uk/computer-product/panasonic-computer-product-solutions-service-and-downloads/image-galler

* Depending on configuration
** Only Available on SSD model
*** Factory operating system image with user specific Quick Boot settings, SSD model

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About Panasonic System Communications Company Europe (PSCEU)
PSCEU is the European branch of Panasonic Systems Communications Company, the global B2B division of Panasonic. PSCEU's goal is to improve the working lives of business professionals and help their organizations efficiency and performance. We help organizations capture, compute and communicate all sorts of information: image, voice, and textual data. Products include PBX telephone switches, document printers, professional cameras, projectors, large visual displays and rugged mobile PCs. With around 500 staff, engineering design expertise, global project management capability and a large European partner network, PSCEU offers unrivalled capability in its markets.

The new PSCEU is made up of four business divisions:
• Communication Solutions including professional scanners, multifunctional printers, telephony systems and HD video conferencing systems.
• Visual System Solutions including projectors, interactive whiteboards, presentation aids and displays. Panasonic
is the European market leader in projectors with 28% revenue share.
• Professional Camera Solutions including professional audio visual, security and integrated machine vision (IMV) technology. Panasonic is one of the top two professional camera vendors in Europe.
• Computer Product Solutions including the Toughbook range of rugged notebooks, Toughpad business

tablets and electronic point of sales (EPOS) systems. Panasonic Toughbook is European rugged and durable notebook market leader with 65.8% market share in 2011 (VDC, March 2012).

Panasonic Corporation is a worldwide leader in the development and manufacture of electronic products for a wide range of consumer, business, and industrial needs. Based in Osaka, Japan, the company recorded consolidated net sales of 7.85 trillion yen (€71.4 billion) for the year ended March 31, 2012. The company's shares are listed on the Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and New York (NYSE:PC) stock exchanges. For more information on the company and the Panasonic brand, visit the company's website at http://panasonic.net/

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