

# CSOLS applies real spirit in its lab applications!

The growing use of handheld mobile computers has also paved the way for the introduction of very varied and innovative applications. One company that has been spearheading the introduction of imaginative and versatile software is CSols Limited. To develop new laboratory applications, it has been using the Gotive H42, which has been supplied by an independent consultancy, Spirit Data Capture Limited.



CSols is an internationally acclaimed software company that specialises in optimising the performance of analytical laboratories. This includes the integration and automation of laboratory systems. One of the key areas of the company's work involves the development of software applications that can be used on handheld computing devices.

The company recently started searching for a more suitable hardware platform for its applications. Phil Goddard, a Director of CSols, explains: "We carried out some of the initial development on inexpensive Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs). However, to take this further, we needed to source a rugged mobile computer that had an integral barcode reader. ▶

## Case Study

"After conducting a search on the Internet, we found Spirit Data Capture, and asked them if they could help us." Spirit has an extensive knowledge of the latest wireless and mobile computing technologies. After discussing its specific business needs, CSols opted for the Gotive H42 Wireless Enterprise Communicator; a device distributed in the UK solely by Spirit.

The Gotive H42 is a powerful but rugged mobile device that offers a wide range of powerful and versatile data capture and communication capabilities. It has a dual battery system and a large, easy to read HVGA screen. The latest model includes integrated GPRS functionality and co-existing Bluetooth and Wireless LAN options. It also has an even greater memory capacity than previously.

Phil Goddard explains: "The screen size of the Gotive was an important factor, as it enabled us to optimise our application. We had also been looking for GPS and a range of mounting/docking options, all of which are available with the H42. Another bonus was the inclusion of Bluetooth, which can be used for connecting external measuring equipment."

CSols developed two key software applications for use on the Gotive – Portable Worksheet Manager and a Remote Sampler.

Portable Worksheet Manager provides analytical laboratories with a cost-effective, automated and secure way of helping analysts to perform routine tasks (such as integrating instruments with LIMS). Desktop PCs have often been used for this task, but many companies would value a more mobile and less expensive solution – such as a handheld device. This is why CSols chose to develop its software on the Gotive H42.

Remote Sampler is an ideal solution for companies (such as water utilities) that need to collect samples from remote locations and to perform tests on site.

The Gotive's GPS capability enables the user to be guided to the collection site and gives a powerful confirmation that the samples were collected in the

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**Phil Goddard**  
Director of CSols

correct location. Although this application will initially be offered to water companies, it will also be suitable for any organisations requiring field tests – such as those investigating food issues and Trading Standards bodies.

Phil Goddard continues: "We are delighted with the Gotive – it's the ideal handheld device for our customers, who are mostly working in and around laboratories or in the field. The unusually large screen, coupled with WiFi for networking and Bluetooth for analytical instrument connectivity, provides the perfect solution for the laboratory environment. For customers that collect samples remotely, the integrated GPRS/GPS and satellite navigation are absolute essentials.

"We will continue to develop the two applications in the future. We plan to extend the Portable Worksheet Manager so that it can be used in the highly regulated pharmaceutical industry – which requires very stringent software standards. We also plan to produce a variant of the Remote Sampler for use in microbiology laboratories."

He concludes: "For CSols, Spirit's Gotive H42 presents us with a solution that fits the requirements of all of our customers. Indeed, this is the only hardware that we ship with our software."



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