

## Corus of approval for Spirit's Gotive solution

Rugged, handheld data capture devices represent an ideal solution for workers who need to gather information in the field. The Corus Rail Business Unit therefore started looking at possible options that could be used by its engineers, who take measurements of rail tracks throughout the UK. The company subsequently opted for the Gotive H41, supplied by Spirit Data Capture Limited.



Corus Rail Business Unit provides rail products and infrastructure services to the international rail industry. As a world leader in metallurgy, it has an in-depth knowledge of track product design, manufacture and performance. Corus recently signed a multi-million pound, seven year contract to supply Network Rail with rail. The unit is part of Corus Group plc, one of the world's largest metal producers, with 48,300 employees in over 40 countries. ▶



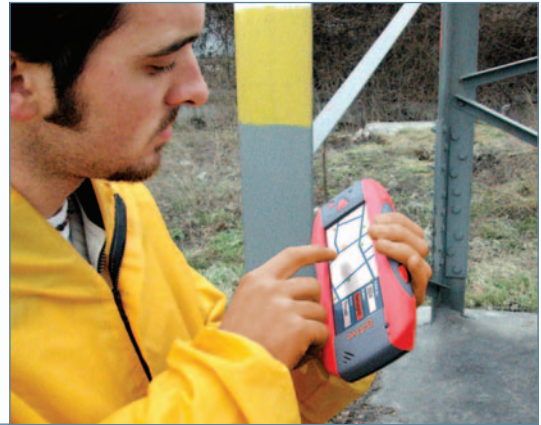
## Case Study

One aspect of the Rail Business Unit's work involves track inspection, including the measurement of rails, associated track features and components. Corus Consultant, John Hempshall, explains: "Over the years, we have accumulated a substantial amount of paper-based information which has then been manually transferred to a spreadsheet for analysis. The historical data can be used for comparison purposes – for instance, to assess any wear over a period of time and any other variations in track behaviour. The information is updated at roughly three monthly intervals.

"We needed a faster, automated system for collecting the data. Previous exercises produced a great amount of paperwork, which could sometimes be soggy and unreadable due to the inclement English weather. We therefore started looking for a suitable handheld palmtop device, which needed to be both rugged and versatile. We also wanted to be able to pre-load information onto the unit, which we could then modify in the field."

A colleague put the team in touch with Spirit Data Capture, who recommended the Gotive H41. This versatile and rugged hand held Wireless Enterprise Communicator has a signal range of up to 180 metres in the open air, providing wide and fast coverage. It has a large 1/2VGA screen and integrated GSM (Global System for Mobile) and GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) capabilities.

John continues: "We preferred the Gotive to other solutions because it is feature-rich and met all of our criteria – and we can adapt it for other uses as our needs change. It was also more robust than the other smaller units we were considering."



The Gotive is now being used for recording information from rail site inspections. It also records a sample inventory of items received from external clients or Corus production facilities. "Any of the measurement information it stores," says John Hempshall, "can be downloaded onto a laptop, which is a great benefit – especially as it's in the correct format for spreadsheets. We also like the unit's large screen size."

He continues: "We have no complaints about the Gotive at all – it does everything we wanted it to do. Everyone who has tried it thinks that it is very easy to use and very reliable. Ultimately, it saves us money by saving us time.

"We are currently thinking of using the Gotive with navigational software. The discussions we have had with Spirit – especially Sales Director Kevin Thomas – have been excellent throughout. We would definitely consider using their services again in the future."