

# Scobie & Junor take stock of Gotive's capabilities

Mobile computers with integral barcode scanners have transformed the ways in which many businesses keep track of stock movements. When the mobile computers also incorporate wireless capabilities, it can open up new ways of boosting efficiency and productivity. This is what Scobie & Junor discovered when it upgraded its stock checking and tracking system.



The Scobie & Junor Group is based in East Kilbride, Scotland, and also has a manufacturing presence in Pennsylvania, USA, and in Melbourne, Australia. Formed in 1918, the company is an established supplier to the UK food industry. It specialises in a wide range of products that add value to food – including special ingredients; different types of packaging; equipment and accessories. ▶

## Case Study

The company previously carried out checks of its stock and any stock movements both manually and using barcode scanners. However, its equipment relied on obsolete radio technology and needed updating. Scobie & Junor therefore started searching for a more sophisticated and versatile system that could withstand the rigours of a warehouse environment.

Scott Burnside, Group IT Manager, explains: "We needed a rugged barcode reader with a good scanning range and with reasonable radio coverage. It also needed to use a Windows operating system." The company contacted Soldis of Dublin, and was put in touch with Spirit Data Capture Limited, an independent data capture specialist for which Soldis acts as a partner. Spirit recommended the Gotive H4I Wireless Enterprise Communicator, which has an integral barcode scanner and radio card.

The Gotive H4I is a rugged and highly versatile handheld computer with a large, half-sized VGA screen. The Gotive combines voice and data communication within a mobile unit which has a high degree of functionality. It is designed for any mobile application that requires the collection, processing and communication of information. The unit has an embedded Windows CE operating system.

Scobie & Junor purchased and installed two Gotives. These are now being used for stock checking (as a perpetual inventory); for tracking the movement of stock

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**Scott Burnside**  
Group IT Manager

between bays; and for locating specific items. All of these processes are carried out via the company's web-based intranet. The Gotive's Windows® CE operating system use radio to provide a web interface with the company's intranet.

The new system has already increased the efficiency of Scobie & Junors warehouse operations. Scott Burnside continues: "The operators are very happy with the Gotives. We now have instant access to the location of different items within the warehouse. We can also get instant updates of stock levels and can track the location of items following stock movements."