



ARVALIS-INSTITUT DU VÉGÉTAL

Rugged, Reliable WORKABOUT PRO Handheld Computers Help Advance Innovations in Agriculture

ARVALIS-Institut du Végétal is a leader in applied research for agriculture. Funded and managed by farmers and food producers, the association has 35 sites in France and employs 400 people, including 300 engineers and technicians working on innovations in plant biotechnology, fertilization and crop protection, precision farming, harvesting, storage and processing, as well as studying market drivers, agriculture economics and environmental factors.

The Challenge

ARVALIS conducts large-scale in-field experiments. Its 35 locations are spread throughout France to encompass the country's diversity of soil and climate conditions. The scope of its activities covers 80% of France's primary crops—cereals, maize, sorghum, protein, potatoes and fodder.

ARVALIS technicians need to capture and store data literally in the field. Working in all weather conditions—humidity, intense sun, dust, wind and rain—in rugged terrain, their equipment needs to be as robust and reliable as the technicians themselves.



The Solution

For over a decade, ARVALIS technicians have relied on Psion Teklogix' rugged handheld computers, most recently the hardworking WORKABOUT PRO®. Using a software application designed by EZOS, a company specializing in the development of mobile applications based on Microsoft® Windows Mobile®, technicians enter field data on the touch screen and can link their handheld computers to industrial scales and harvesters to perform calculations.

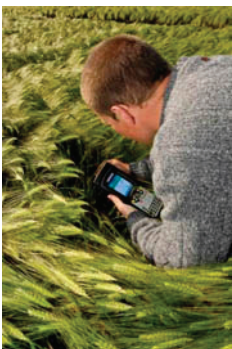


The Benefits

The WORKABOUT PRO® provides ARVALIS technicians with flexibility and improved productivity. Full VGA color - touch display provides improved graphics capability in all lighting conditions and allows them to enter data without using a keyboard or stylus—essential for those who wear gloves. Every finding, measurement, description and count can be entered into predefined fields, allowing technicians to concentrate on visual inspection of plants and soil conditions.

Weighing around 1 lb (455 g), the WORKABOUT PRO® is easy to carry through fields of crops, but should a technician drop his handheld, it's not a problem. The rugged device can withstand multiple drops onto concrete from heights of almost two meters (6 ft). It can also withstand rain and dust while operating in a wide temperature range of -4°F to 122°F (-20°C to +50°C) and 5% to 95% relative humidity (non-condensing).

There are currently 40 WORKABOUT PRO® handheld computers in use at ARVALIS-Institut du Végétal.



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