



AGROTECH

Streaming land trials for AgroTech, Institute for Agriculture and Food Innovation

AgroTech A/S, a Danish Government Authorized Technology Service Institute, provides private companies operating in the agricultural and food processing sectors, including primary producers and suppliers, access to advanced technology. Services that AgroTech provides to primary producers and suppliers include: access to trials and tests, demonstration of new technology, and other basic services.

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The Challenge

For many years, AgroTech has used Psion Teklogix handheld computers for registration and other tasks in both the Land Trials and other agricultural work. Over time, however, the demands on Land Trials have increased and created a need for new technologies. The new demands included having the ability to perform more dynamic tests that could handle the increasing amount of data collected in the field, and the greater range of Land Trials being carried out.

Due to specifications defined by AgroTech as sensitive to its operations, it was determined that a solution needed to have several characteristics. The solution needed to be robust and watertight to handle the tough environment of Land Trials, it needed to be an ergonomic, user-friendly handheld with an easy-to-read display in all conditions, particularly outdoors and in sunlight, and it needed a high capacity battery to ensure a full day of productivity for workers in the field.

The Solution

AgroTech chose the WORKABOUT PRO by Psion Teklogix to replace its fleet of

handheld computers. The WORKABOUT PRO provides AgroTech with a handheld terminal that has the ruggedness, ergonomics, user-friendliness, and high capacity battery that it required.

Field workers input data to the WORKABOUT PRO, which then transfers the data through a network to a central database at AgroTech. The results of the Land Trials are then calculated and made available for further processing. Thus, AgroTech is able to communicate updated knowledge to farmers, which enables optimum plant production under the conditions that are present.

The Benefits

The solution provided by Psion Teklogix provides AgroTech with access to real-time information, which it can quickly and efficiently deliver to farmers. The WORKABOUT PRO provides the field workers with the flexibility to make modifications to testing during trials. This allows workers to be much more productive in their jobs as they are able to monitor more than one crop attributes at a time. Improved productivity is further enabled through the use of an ergonomic, user-friendly terminal that supports a full workday.

“It is a very robust and watertight unit,” says Morten Rasmussen, who is in charge of the infrastructure with preparation and support of the chosen solution. “WORKABOUT PRO is user-friendly with good ergonomics and a display that is easy to read, also outside in the sunshine. For AgroTech’s special use far away from battery chargers it is also important that the computer’s battery has a very high capacity with enough power for a whole day’s work in the field.”

“We have got significant advantages with the new WORKABOUT PRO handheld computers from Psion Teklogix,” says Birgitte Feld Mikkelsen from AgroTech. “The new technology makes it possible for us to modify the trials as we go. That is to say, if we for example are testing for fungus in the crop and state other irregularities during that trial then previously we had to stop the trial and start again the following year. With the new WORKABOUT PRO we can now, as mentioned, modify the trial and continue as we just watch out for two things at the same time. It is very important for a fast and efficient communication of important knowledge to the farmers.”



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