



REGIONAL ROOF TRUSS MANUFACTURER FINDS PERFECT MOBILE COMPUTING SOLUTION IN RUGGED ENVIRONMENT

Orange (NSW) based roof truss and building frame manufacturer Westruss has recently embarked on a plan to move to a totally paperless factory. Westruss chose the Xplore C2D rugged tablet PC supplied by Antares Corporation as the hardware platform for what is a very dirty and challenging production environment and management and factory staff are delighted with the outcome. Having achieved a flawless implementation in its truss factory, Westruss' next step is to do the same in its frame production area.

Prior to the current drive to stream-line its factory operations, up to 100 pages of engineering plans and drawings were produced for each job at the building stage. Now, with the use of four Xplore C2D tablets and third party engineering software, factory staff take design drawings and specifications straight off the company network and proceed to finished production in a completely paperless operation. This automated operation also provides valuable and necessary real-time progress monitoring for each job which has obvious advantages for management and customer liaison personnel.

Westruss IT Manager, Will Ferguson reports that the company "has not had a single problem" since implementing the new system using the Xplore ruggedised tablets and expects that positive feedback shared with their software suppliers will inevitably see other similar manufacturing operations adopt this same technology.

"We looked at all other rugged and conventional tablet PCs but could not go past the Xplore because of its durability, toughness, tolerance to temperature extremes, ability to withstand water immersion and our extremely dusty environment" advised Mr. Ferguson.



Antares Managing Director, Peter King said that "It is hard to imagine a better demonstration of the rugged qualities of the Xplore than at Westruss where the production area is partly open to the weather (which in Orange can be very hot in Summer and extremely cold in Winter), where the gear can get wet and where it needs to cope with inevitable rough handling in a factory environment where equipment may get dropped onto sawdust covered concrete floors". One of the Westruss PCs is mounted on and controls a large saw and so needs to be able to withstand significant vibration. It does this without missing a beat. "It was also important to us to go with wireless communication

as we have a large gantry crane in this factory and so overhead cables would represent a hazard" added Mr. Ferguson.

Prior to the Xplore purchase, Westruss had used regular laptop PCs but had experienced an unsatisfactory failure rate and reported that "all the keyboard keys were smashed-in after a while which is why we were attracted to the touch-screen capability".

Westruss is clearly a very happy Xplore user and Will Ferguson would be happy to talk to companies considering similar applications in a rugged environment.

For further information contact Antares Corporation on 1300 884 565 or email sales@antares.com.au