



# Dolphins give a show of strength at Chronopost

If a barcode scanner is used by van drivers for scanning parcels, it has to be able to withstand some rough handling. Dolphin scanners, produced by Hand Held Products, a Welch Allyn affiliate, proved their worth recently when one was thrown across an office, but emerged intact!

The scanners were being tested by Chronopost International for use as part of its trace and track system. Chronopost is a parcel carrier based in Lount, Leicestershire, and has nearly 100 depots in the UK. The company was recently bought by the French Chronopost Group.

Chronopost needed to upgrade its barcode scanners, as its previous units were outdated. The company looked at a wide range of products from different manufacturers. "We were looking for units

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that had a very reliable, fast and accurate scanning head. They also had to be very rugged” says Martin Robins, Chronopost’s Systems Development Manager.

“The Dolphins from Hand Held Products met all of our criteria,” he continues. “They are also used by our French parent company. However, the deciding factor was that they were the only scanners that wouldn’t break! I threw each manufacturer’s scanner across the office, and the Dolphin was the only one that stayed in one piece!” As a result, the company purchased 150 Dolphins for use in its depots.

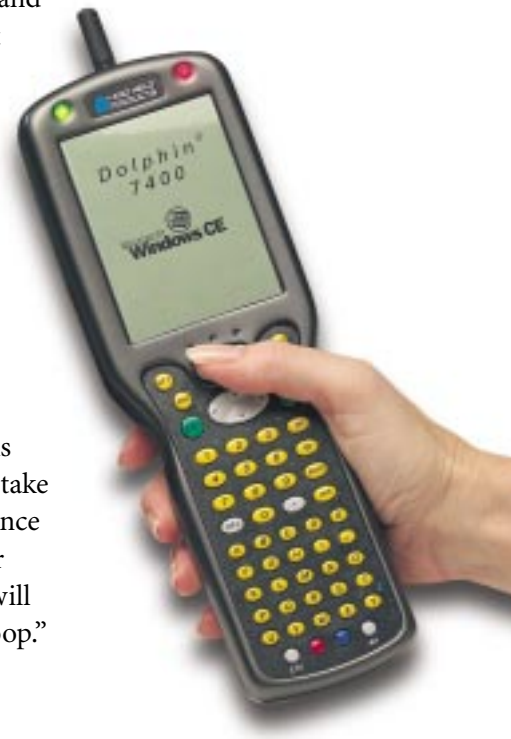
The Dolphin is an extremely robust pocket-sized computer with an in-built barcode laser scanner. It is light, easy to use and programme, and has a battery that lasts for 16,000 scans (or ten hours) before it needs recharging.

Colchester-based Codeway, one of Hand Held Products’ partners, specialises in products, software and services for automatic identification, tracking and control. The company was asked to write the initial version of the software for Chronopost’s new Dolphin scanners, and will be developing further

software for the units in the future.

The new Dolphins are being used to scan a barcode (which carries a unique identification number) on each of the parcels collected by Chronopost. The scanners are used at the depots during the collection and delivery stages, and at various other points in the sort process.

Martin Robins concludes: “We will definitely be buying further Dolphin units in the future. We will use them during the sort process to scan parcels onto the vehicles that take them to the depots. Once we are able to scan for delivery as well, that will complete the whole loop.”



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