

Hanson has concrete reasons for using Dolphins

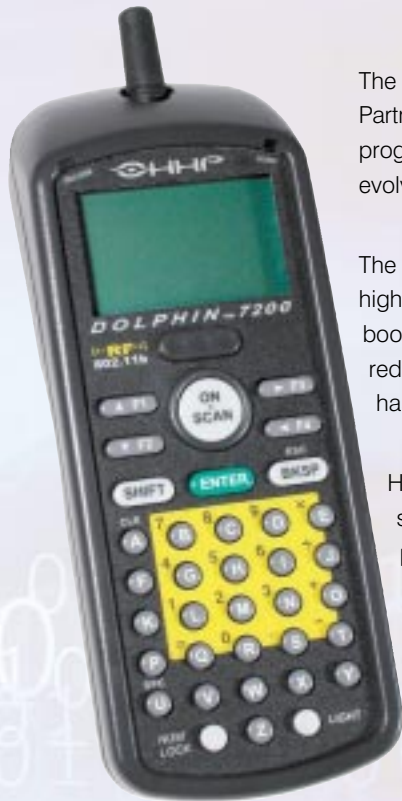
Bar code scanners that are used for industrial applications need to be very sturdy and reliable. This is particularly true for a company like Hanson Concrete Products, which has opted for a very robust solution – HHP’s Dolphin® 7200RF terminals.

Hanson Concrete Products is a UK subsidiary of Hanson plc, the international building materials company. In November 2002, Hanson Concrete Products strengthened its position in the UK concrete flooring market with the acquisition of Marshalls Flooring, a leading manufacturer of concrete beam and block flooring, hollowcore flooring and stairs.

Before being taken over by Hanson, Marshalls was using a manual stocktaking system that was very labour-intensive. The company used two teams of counters to record the stock, and the figures then had to be interpreted and keyed into the computer. As Shawn Jackson, Hanson Concrete Products’ Stock and Production Controller at Hoveringham, says: “There was a lot of room for error with the old system.”

Three or four years ago, the company started searching for an alternative, more streamlined system. Shawn continues: “Our concrete products are large and heavy, and are stored in the yard. We tried off-the-shelf software and equipment, but nothing was sturdy enough to withstand the rigours of working outside.

“I then searched the web for anything that might be suitable, and found the Dolphins. They turned out to be ideal – they are very rugged units which handle very well, and are very easy to both use and programme.” The Dolphin® 7200 RF operates on DOS 386 architecture, and has upgradeable memory and data collection options. It is extremely sturdy, and can withstand repeated drops onto concrete.



The Dolphins were sourced through Codeway, one of HHP's main Business Partners. Codeway also supplied RealTime software, which enables Hanson to programme and upgrade the Dolphins as its system changes. "We wanted an evolving system, which is exactly what the Dolphins provide," explains Shawn.

The Dolphins are hooked up to Hanson's RF server system, and have proved highly effective. Shawn continues: "The Dolphins are brilliant - they have really boosted the speed and efficiency of our stocktaking operations, and have greatly reduced the amount of errors that can occur. We have even used them when it has been tipping down with rain, and have had no problems at all!"

He adds: "We hope to extend the use of the Dolphins still further in the future, so that they enhance every part of our business operation - from work in progress right through to checking deliveries on the lorries. However, we will take it a step at a time, moving on to the next stage after each new implementation has been successfully completed."



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