

RUGGED TABLET PCs SIMPLIFY PORT LOGISTICS AND SPEED UP SHIPMENTS

The volume of cargo and the requirements of government regulations mean port operators face major logistical challenges. The Port of Charleston, S.C., handles thousands of tons of cargo every day as trucks arrive and depart with containers of agricultural products, consumer goods, machinery, metals, vehicles, chemicals and other goods.

Central to making this system function smoothly in a demanding environment are fully rugged, mobile tablet PCs from DRS Technologies.

To keep track of thousands of containers that enter and leave the port while meeting security and customs regulations, the Port of Charleston, employs a yard management system – a real-time program – that tracks each container from the time it enters the port until it leaves. Central to making this system function smoothly in a demanding environment are fully rugged mobile tablet PCs from DRS Technologies that help ensure that freight moves efficiently, and trucks aren't kept waiting.

These rugged tablet PCs are deployed at dozens of truck lanes entering the port where



Durable and dependable, DRS rugged mobile PCs will go places you would never consider taking the average mobile computer.

data supplied by truck drivers is entered into the system. The same mobile PCs are also used by crane operators to determine where each container is located. According to S. Todd Davis, network manager for the port, his crews as well as truck drivers benefit from a paperless system. "They like it because it gets them moving faster, with fewer mistakes, than before."



Where is it? When will it get there? With freight shipping, you have to know the location instantly – at the dock, in the yard or on the road.

Large, sunlight-readable displays and full touch-screen functionality make it easy for yard workers to operate the computers, even if they are wearing work gloves. "We also like that we can use one model for both the truck lanes and the cranes," Davis added. In the truck lanes, where wireless communication is strong, the devices maintain real-time connections. In the yard, where stacks of metal containers can make data transmission less-reliable, the devices store data and then update information when a connection is reestablished.

The DRS rugged mobile PCs have been deployed at the Port of Charleston for over five years, and have proved their durability in an environment where shock and vibration, dust and humidity are routine. Port officials and DRS worked closely to customize the units to the port's specific needs, such as bar code scanners to read tickets and paperwork.

"We've been impressed with how the company listened to us and configures their models to our specifications," Davis said. For example, workers wanted a Universal Serial Bus port on the outside of each unit for a keyboard, bar code reader, printer or other peripheral equipment. "You need adaptability of ruggedized tablets to match applications."

ARMOR RUGGED MOBILE SOLUTIONS