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Information logistics:

Chosen again

Logistics service provider Dachser has once again opted for handheld terminals from Casio. The new devices in the IT-G500 series will replace the DT-X30 models that have been in successful use over the last eight years.

Dachser, one of the world's leading logistics companies, has been using mobile data recording devices from the Japanese manufacturer for more than 12 years, for online documentation of its delivery processes. The Casio IT-G500 handheld device now in use is the third generation of device to be used by Dachser, after the Casio DT-X10 (2004) and Casio DT-X30 (2009) series. Dachser records information including delivery data from local deliveries using the NV-online app. Around 10% of the 7500 devices currently in use at Dachser belong to the latest generation. "We opted for Casio again because our experience with the devices currently in use has been excellent", confirms Thomas von Jan, Department Head IT-Frontend Systems. "The handheld devices are extremely robust and reliably help us to network mobile processes in the flow of information and goods."

Users agree

Before the new NV-online hardware was selected, similar devices from other manufacturers were considered, and comparable handheld devices underwent thorough testing. In addition to its technical features and high levels of performance, the IT-G500 from Casio also impressed with its lightweight design. Günter Kürner, head of local

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traffic at Dachser's Freiburg branch, was pleased to describe his experience during the pilot phase: "The tried-and-tested Casio DT-X30 had to be carried in a belt pouch because it weighed nearly 600 grams, but the new model fits easily into a pocket in work clothing. Thanks to its slim design and the fact that it weighs less than 300 grams, our drivers were visibly enthusiastic about the new model, right from the pilot phase. Improvements made to the scanner head, including an ergonomic tilted design and significantly enhanced read performance, allow faster recording of data, making our employees' work easier."

Handheld devices with potential

Dachser has opted to use the Casio IT-G500-GC21E as the hardware for the third generation of its NV-online system. This version of the handheld device uses the Windows® Embedded Compact 7 real-time operating system with multi-processing support and is both innovative and future-proof, enabling further development of the NV-online app in the future.

ID codes are read by the integrated CMOS imager with autofocus, which in addition to the barcodes commonly in use, will also be able to quickly and reliably record 2D codes in the future. Deliveries can be signed for directly on the touchscreen, which offers clear colours and good contrast even in bright sunlight.

The handheld device uses fast 3G mobile Internet with HSPA/UMTS for data communication between local drivers on their delivery routes and the Dachser headquarters. This ensures that the recorded data is available almost immediately as status information to everyone involved in the flow of goods, which in turn allows timely tracking and tracing of packages. The integrated GPS module can be used to determine the location of vehicles in particular situations and, in conjunction with the large colour display, could be used as a navigation device in future.

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In addition to being used by the field service (NV-online), the devices are also used in branches for swap body administration and to document damage to goods in cargo handling facilities. The Casio IT-G500 includes an integrated digital camera with auto-focus and LED flash for this purpose.

Robust but lightweight

Even though the slim handheld device may not immediately appear highly resistant to external influences, it rises to any challenge posed by day-to-day use in rough working conditions. The lightweight housing is produced using durable plastic and can withstand falls onto concrete from a height of 1.5 metres. It can withstand even more with the "bumper" used by Dachser. The device also offers optimum protection against dust and water penetration in accordance with the IP67 protection rating.

"Dachser has excellent experience of our handheld devices and also consulted the repair statistics for previous models before choosing our IT-G500", explains Thomas Uppenkamp, Head of the Mobile Industrial Solutions department at Casio Europe GmbH. "Dachser is very pleased with the extremely low failure rate. Even better results can be expected from the new and more lightweight devices."

The project management and delivery of the mobile devices was handled by Cologne-based PDS Entwicklungs- und Service GmbH, which also offers services when required.

Ready for increasing requirements

The current applications at Dachser do not make full use of the high levels of performance and the extensive range of functions available on the new handheld devices from Casio. However, some integrated features (2D imager, RFID/NFC, GPS) mean that process optimisations and new and interesting applications can be expected. Thomas von Jan confirms: "Our modern IT systems allow our

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customers to keep an eye on their goods flows at any time online. Scanning deliveries with mobile devices and prompt communication with headquarters are important elements in end-to-end tracking of shipments. The new Casio IT-G500 promises to be a secure investment for many more years and safeguards the future development of our logistics processes."

For more information about the CASIO IT-G500, please contact

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Key facts about

Dachser

Dachser is one of Europe's leading logistics providers and has a worldwide presence thanks to its global network of air and sea freight locations. Last year, the company generated a total worldwide turnover of 5.64 billion euro. Around 26,500 employees moved 78.1 million packages with a total weight of 37.3 million tonnes in 428 locations worldwide.

www.dachser.de

Casio

In the field of mobile data recording, Casio represents ultimate hardware quality and extraordinary robustness together with reliable project management and rapid support. The Mobile Industrial Solutions business unit stands out as a strong partner for software companies and system integrators.

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Note for editorial staff:

Photos in this Word document are scaled-down and compacted preview images. Images for further processing (with 300 dpi resolution) are attached as separate JPEG files and are available online at www.redaktionsserver.de.



Image 01

Multifunctional handheld device for warehouses and deliveries

(Image: Casio Europe)

The new handheld terminals from the Casio IT-G500 series are ideal for use by logistics providers thanks to their wide range of features and their robust, lightweight design.

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Image 02

New handheld device for local deliveries by Dachser

(Image: Casio Europe)

Mobile data recording and proof of delivery are important elements in integrated information logistics at Dachser, and are now carried out using the new handheld terminals from the Casio IT-G500 series.

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Image 03

Transparent flow of goods

(Image: Casio Europe)

All stored and transported goods—from the smallest package to full pallets—can be clearly identified using their NVE (packing unit number). The scan of the NVE and confirmation by the employee provide the Dachser IT systems with information on the status of the goods.

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Image 04

Deliveries documented with the customer's signature

(Image: Casio Europe)

Delivery is acknowledged in the NV-online app directly on the touch panel of the handheld device. Soon after, the Dachser IT systems are

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notified of the transaction and make this information available to the customer.



Image 05

The Casio IT-G500 handheld terminal fits in a jacket pocket

(Image: Casio Europe)

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The Casio DT-X30 handheld devices previously used had to be carried in a belt pouch because it weighed around 600 grams, but the new device fits easily into a pocket on work clothing. The slim shape and the weight of less than 300 grams have been well-received by users.

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Image 06

Photographic documentation of damage

(Image: Casio Europe)

Any damage identified in the cargo handling facilities at the branches is photographed using the digital camera on the handheld device and forwarded together with the NVE and damage report via Wi-Fi. From this moment, the customer can also access the damage log and decide whether to send new goods immediately.

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Image 07

Swap body administration with photographic documentation

(Image: Casio Europe)

Swap bodies and semitrailers are regularly checked for cleanliness and damage at the branches. Problems identified can be photographed using the digital camera on the handheld device and forwarded via Wi-Fi.

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