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Itronix designs, manufactures and deploys mission-critical wireless, rugged computing solutions that maximise the productivity of mobile workers.

For more than 15 years, Itronix has provided enterprise mobile computing solutions field workers in the utilities, commercial field services, telecommunications, government, public safety and EMS markets.

More information about Itronix and its products are available at www.itronix.co.uk

Product Benefits

- Time and money savings - 1 hour per day per Doctor
- Data analysis improves quality levels

Itronix Reference Account: **Dresden Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service**

SITUATION

Doctors working for Dresden Fire brigade have become the first in Germany to use handheld Computers running on Windows CE. Instead of using pen and paper, as is still common throughout Germany, they now record all information taken at the scene of the emergency using a specially designed digital reporting system. Unlike hand written reports, this electronic data can be used for quality analysis and invoicing which are particularly important to rescue services. In addition, data entry time is reduced by half.

When Dresden Fire Brigade's dispatch Centre reports an emergency and an Ambulance is dispatched "treatment in the first hour is crucial in affecting whether the Patient will survive", according to Doctor Wladimir Haacke, area director for education and training and medical officer for health with the rescue services. Doctors have to be able to concentrate fully on their work during this time, and the quality of their work must be adequate to cope with a life-and-death struggle. But until now, each Doctor has not only had to treat his patient during the call, but also fill in numerous forms recording all the relevant medical data and billing information. This means that reuse of the information is limited and there is no way of comparing treatment methods in the ambulance with successful or failed recoveries. As a result, it is impossible to monitor quality and performance in the Ambulance Service or to plan and monitor improvements.

Solution: Digital reporting system for Doctors.

To address the problem, the Dresden Fire Services have now introduced the innovative solution: MedicalPad Emergency, the digital reporting system for Doctors on emergency call. "Thanks to the solution we are becoming the most modern Ambulance Service in Germany", observes Haacke. In future, the services emergency rescue vehicles will be fully equipped with mobile Windows CE Data entry units to replace paper forms. Since all the information is available electronically using the Windows Platform, it can be stored easily in a central Microsoft SQL Server 7.0 Database without the need for re-entering information. This means that analysis of medical service quality and details for billing health insurance companies are available immediately.

480 employees work At Dresden's Professional Fire Brigade's four Fire Stations protecting 472,000 inhabitants by fighting fires, answering emergency calls and transporting patients. During the past year the Fire Brigade Personnel have moved into a modern Station at Dresden-Ubigau where project Manager Wladimir Haacke is also based.

BENEFIT - Time savings of 1 hour per day per Doctor.

Previously, emergency Doctors had to fill in four lengthy forms, for each of their 10 to 15 calls per day. But since the introduction of the new system, they can enter their diagnoses, treatments and health insurance billing data into the small, robust handheld PC from WPI Husky Computers GmbH which runs on the Windows CE operating system. All the documents needed during an emergency are embedded in the software package Medicalpad emergency from Windows CE pioneer and mobile solutions specialist WENK SYSTEMS GmbH which is based in Hamburg.

The intuitive pen-based entry system, a user-friendly interface with menu lists and selection fields, and the familiar Windows desktop simplify data entry. Formulae calculation and course mappings, such as pulse rate, are fully –automated while plausibility checks ensure that no incorrect data is entered during the hustle and bustle of an emergency call out. Patient Data entry is carried out by an integrated chip card reader which takes information from the health insurance provider's card, whilst the handheld PCs keyboard enables data entry when no pen stylus is available. Haacke estimates that the time required to enter information has been reduced by half. For individual Doctors this means time savings of more than an hour each day. This alone makes the Windows CE solution very valuable to his organisation. With almost 85,000 calls answered every year by the Dresden emergency services, these time savings represent a significant reduction in operating costs. It also means that Doctors have more time for what really matters – providing medical care to patients.