

The Customer:

CYBERNET

Cybernet Systems Corporation's Shipboard Wireless Maintenance Assistant (SWMA) Platform is one of the few selected commercial technologies directed by the Navy to participate in Trident Warrior, the Navy's major annual FORCENet Sea Trial event. Additionally, SWMA is in the process of trials for integration into the War Fighter Focus program to support logistics and maintenance at various Army depots throughout the US.



THE CHALLENGE

The need for rugged tablets durable enough to withstand military conditions. Additionally, these rugged tablets needed to be receptive to Cybernet building onto them to make a complete solution for their clients. For the SWMA Platform the initial challenge was to develop a solution to help the Navy reduce personnel on its ships.



THE BENEFITS

Xplore's rugged tablet computers are ranked among the highest in terms of military specifications, while at the same time allow for the flexibility and adaptability that Cybernet Systems requires to customize their end solutions for their clients. Cybernet is able to build a complete solution using their software and utilizing Xplore tablets as the hardware because of the quality of the Xplore tablets. The total solution carries the Cybernet brand.

Cybernet Systems Corporation, a woman-owned small business, was founded in 1989 as a research and development company committed to creating robotics technology solutions and advancements to human-machine interaction. Located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Cybernet has completed hundreds of Department of Defense contracts and is one of the largest Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) contract winners in the United States.

Cybernet's Shipboard Wireless Maintenance Assistant (SWMA) is a Phase III SBIR development that has produced a reconfigurable MIL810F tablet solution platform that is in full commercial production. This platform provides an intuitive interface to enterprise solutions software optimized for hardware reconfiguration, CAC authentication, and rugged field usage. The system maximizes field personnel efficiency and effectiveness in data capture, tracking, processing and analysis for logistical and maintenance community.

The system was originally developed for the US Navy and provides a rugged tablet PC platform and flexible software toolkit that easily interfaces with legacy applications and

workflow. Because there was a need by Cybernet to be able to adapt the hardware to its own solution, Cybernet tried a number of rugged tablets and came to the conclusion that the Xplore iX104 tablets provided the best overall option.

"This tablet has the military specifications required for our solutions and also the adaptability for us where we can place our own add-ons to individualize our solutions," said Patrick Lewis, of Cybernet Systems Media. The Xplore computers that Cybernet uses are actually branded as Cybernet, Lewis stated. "We are definitely not a reseller of the computers – rather, Xplore is our provider of the rugged tablets," he affirmed.

According to Lewis, "in 2003 and 2004 the Navy determined that there was a need to reduce manpower on ships. At this time, we at Cybernet began to develop a solution that would assist in that effort. Tablet computers were and continue to be a very important component to these solutions as by their very form, they are the best for use in the military conditions," said Lewis. He noted the idea was to outfit the workers, replacing previously used Panasonic Toughbooks. "The replacement of these notebooks with tablets was specifically because the tablets were easier to use on a ship. A notebook computer provided drawbacks when used on ships. For example, the notebook had to be opened and placed down on a surface so that data could be imputed via the keyboard. We found that tablets provided much greater flexibility for use – the tablet could be mounted, set down or used in one hand while the other hand carries out the function."

Cybernet found that a number of Xplore customers would come to them for readers to add onto their own rugged tablets. "We discovered that if we put certain tools on the Xplore units we could take them into the clean rooms on the ships – those rooms usually in the belly of the ship where it is very hazardous and there is a need to input data into a safe computer but with a heavily gloved hand. The tablets were perfect for this solution in that they can be used in very dangerous environments."

"We tried any number of rugged tablets for our solutions," Lewis said. One of the reasons Cybernet chose Xplore for its rugged tablets was both the durability that the Xplore tablets presented as well as the receptivity of the Xplore units to Cybernet's add-ons for the devices. "Because we are selling

our own solution, any piece of hardware that we utilize has to be able to be modified to what we require and the Xplore tablets are so well-designed this was very easy to do," Lewis stated.

The SWMA is one of the few selected commercial technologies directed by the Navy to participate in Trident Warrior. Trident Warrior is the Navy's major annual operational FORCENet Sea Trial event. SWMA is also in the process of trials for integration into the War Fighter Focus (WFF) program to support logistics and maintenance at various Army depots throughout the US. These trials have proven significant cost and time savings for maintenance personnel. The results of these experiments are proving the value of SWMA as a key technology for interfacing with legacy systems in a generic manner and providing tremendous manpower savings and with high efficiency and effectiveness.



ABOUT XPLORE TECHNOLOGIES

Xplore Technologies Corp., maker of the most rugged tablets on Earth, has been in the business of developing, integrating, and marketing industrial grade rugged tablets for our customers in the Energy, Utilities, Manufacturing and Distribution, Public Safety, Field Services, Transportation, and Military sectors for over 15 years.

Xplore Tablets use the most powerful and modern processors and components and are tested more vigorously for shock, thermal, vibration, impact, ingress and emissions than any other PC in the industry. Xplore's products enable the extension of traditional computing systems to a range of field and on-site personnel, regardless of location or environment. Xplore's portfolio of products is sold on a global basis, with channel partners in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia Pacific. Xplore's main offices are located in Austin, Texas with regional sales offices throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. Xplore is a public company that trades under the symbol XPLR on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange.

