

Spirit's solutions streamline communications and information gathering for the University of Exeter



Effective communications is a vital aspect of any project. To ensure that everyone involved in its Smartline project has the latest information, the University of Exeter bought some Huawei tablets sourced and supplied by Spirit Data Capture Limited. The tablets ensure fast, effective and secure communications between all of the participants in the project and also between them and the researchers.

The European Centre for Environment and Human Health is part of the University of Exeter Medical School. Based at the university's campus in Truro, Cornwall, the Centre conducts world-class research into the complex connections between the environment and health. It was launched in May 2011 with support from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund Convergence programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The Centre is a base for experts from a wide array of disciplines. Through joint studies, PhD projects, forums and interest groups, it works closely with a range of organisations to ensure that its research is informed by local issues and real world challenges.

Defining the issue

The Centre's Smartline project is exploring how technology can be used to help people to live healthier and happier lives. It's a partnership project led by the University of Exeter, working alongside Coastline Housing Limited, Cornwall Council and Volunteer Cornwall.

The project involves 275 Coastline Housing customers in several communities in Cornwall, whose homes have been fitted with environmental sensors. These collect information on air quality, humidity, temperature, water usage, air movement and energy usage. The participants also take part in surveys to help the university to understand their wellbeing needs, their aspirations and their desires for their community. The information collected will be used to design better systems for managing homes in the future, and for inventing new products and services that enhance health and happiness.

The Smartline project team started searching for a suitable tablet-based solution. This would need to protect the participants of the project, and others, from inappropriate web content whilst also enabling the researchers to communicate easily with the participants – and enhancing communications within the communities involved.

After a rigorous tendering process, the Smartline project team chose Spirit Data Capture Limited, an independent specialist in mobile enterprise solutions, to supply the tablets. Based on the project criteria, Spirit sourced Huawei MediaPad T3 10 devices and recommended SOTI's MobiControl software.

The Huawei MediaPad T3 10 is an ultra-slim tablet with an Android Nougat operating system. The tablet has a 9.6 inch IPS display and a 16GB hard drive; WiFi (802.11 a/b/g/n) and GPS; a front and a rear camera; and a gravity sensor. MobiControl is the UK's leading enterprise mobility management (EMM) software platform, providing the remote control, monitoring and management of handheld devices to ensure that users can gain the maximum return on their investment.



For further information contact us at:
t: 01928 718800 **f:** 0870 762 2824
email: helen.jones@spiritdatacapture.co.uk
www: spiritdatacapture.co.uk

Developing the solution

Smartline bought 325 Huawei tablets. Darren Stevens, the project's Data Integration Manager, comments: "The tablets work well in the Smartline project because they're lightweight, they have a long battery life, they're quick, they integrate well with MobiControl and they were at the right price point for us. We chose MobiControl because it has a simple interface and is easy to use."

Spirit provided a range of managed services for the University, including a technical helpdesk and the development of 'Gold Build' specifications for the configuration and installation of the Huawei devices. The company is providing ongoing support for managing the tablets in the project, as well as managing the contracts with 4G suppliers. Spirit was responsible for customising the look of the tablets and integrating them with the project's 'Android for Work'. As well as providing the EMM software, Spirit also provided training in the use of MobiControl and advice on tablet security and user access.

Reaping the rewards

The new Huawei tablets enable participants to engage with other people in their community and with academics from the university. Monthly surveys that ask them about their health and well-being will be sent electronically to the tablets. The responses will inform Smartline research into connected communities.

There will also be opportunities for the participants to use the tablets to take part in mini-projects with the University of Exeter or local businesses. Meanwhile, MobiControl allows the university to monitor all of the tablets easily; and enables it to offer remote support to the users whilst also controlling the content.

Darren concludes: "So far we've been impressed with the services from Spirit. They provided a project plan, gave regular updates and delivered ahead of schedule, which enabled us to provide tablets to the participants in plenty of time for the research. Having a company you can rely on to deliver on or before the agreed time is very valuable. I would happily recommend Spirit and MobiControl to the wider university."



European Centre for
Environment & Human Health



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund