

CAPABLE

Tried, Tested and Trusted

THE NEWSLETTER FROM

CAPTEC



Trustworthy **Computers** for the London **Underground**

London's underground tube network is one of the largest and busiest in the world comprising over 270 stations catering for just under 1 billion passenger journeys each year. The tube network is strategic to the effective operation of London as a major international capital.

New investment in the modernisation of the Station Management Systems (SMS) for the vast majority of the stations called for specialist Industrial Computing Equipment from an experienced supplier with the capability of handling large scale business critical projects. A combination of technical and commercial capability was required, coupled with the need for a tried and tested supplier to minimise risk and with financial capability to manage the size of project.

The nature of the application required industrial computing technology that could withstand the environmental conditions of the transport system. Most importantly stringent safety considerations, particularly in case of a fire necessitating Zero Halogen and low Smoke emissions, Electro-Magnetic conformance to ensure minimum interference and susceptibility with other safety critical electronic equipment.

Captec were chosen for possessing transport sector competence, extensive technical expertise and years of experience providing industrial computing technology solutions for diverse applications. Captec were able to conform to all of London Underground's rigorous operational and safety standards, including minimum levels of toxic fume emissions and EMC certification.

Equipment supplied included:

- **19" Rack mounting Industrial PCs**
- **Custom designed monitoring and alarm electronics**
- **Vesta 19" TFT display with Touch Screen**
- **Zero Halogen Low Smoke emission painted**
- **Serial to Ethernet Communications**

The SMS modernisation and upgrade project is scheduled to roll-out over some 7 years. During this time Captec will future proof the technology by managing the change control of the computing technology in an ever changing industry.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **London Underground**
- **Heathrow T5**

- **THORpac**
- **Investors in People**

- **Captec North America**

All the Way to Heathrow T5

Over 170 million passengers will use London's Piccadilly line this year, a number set to increase when Heathrow's Terminal 5 opens in early 2008. Investment in excess of £1bn is being made to extend and modernise the line to serve what will be Heathrow's most advanced passenger terminal.

Computing automation equipment needed in the stations' expansion had to withstand the considerable demands of the underground environment and be delivered against tight timescales. Captec were the preferred choice because of their prior experience and expertise in supplying industrial computing equipment for underground applications. The products had already proven to be robust, reliable and had been tested for the necessary LUL approvals. This constituted considerable advantages for the project both in cost savings and delivery timescales.

Space constraints in the control rooms necessitated custom designed cabinets due to lack of suitable off-the-shelf standard cabinets. Stringent design considerations needed to be applied particularly relating to IP ingress of dust and thermal management. All without compromising serviceability, reliability and MTBF (Mean Time Between Failures).

Equipment supplied included:

- Custom designed cabinet
- Industrial PC System
- Vesta 19" TFT display with Touch Screen
- Sealed membrane keyboard
- Industrial Ethernet Communications Equipment
- Zero Halogen Low Smoke emission painted

Captec's involvement with underground projects stems back over 15 years, over which extensive experience has been gained. This ensured that risks were minimised and that the customer received best value with a minimised cost of ownership over the lifetime of the equipment.



Rugged Mobile PC offers expansion

Captec is pleased to announce the launch of its THORpac range of portable PC's, which have shattered the myth that the expandability of an in-field computing device has to be inversely proportional to its portability.

Built to take punishment that would cripple an ordinary notebook, the THORpac is tailored for field-deployed professionals who require robustness, functional expandability and reliability where the computer has to be mobile or operate in outdoor conditions. This is often lacking in other portable computing equipment.

The THORpac range not only offers compatibility with a wide range of industry standard communications, but users can also add up to 3 PCI cards increasing its functionality for a wide diversity of applications. All this is achieved by a unit housed in a rugged case that, thanks to clever thermal management, can be totally sealed against the ingress of dust, dirt and water.

Incorporating all the basic functionality of a powerful, dedicated computing platform, the THORpac range is rated to IP67 (closed) and IP50 (open). However, Captec also offers a version rated to IP65 (open). Indeed, one application sees it being buried in the ground for weeks at a time, whilst another has it sitting by the side of drain holes used in the survey of drainage pipes.

Internally, the THORpac houses a 2.5" hard disk drive that, thanks to anti-vibration dampers, is capable of operating in

high-vibration applications. Dependant very much on the application the unit will be used for, CPUs range from a 1GHz Pentium III up to 2GHz Pentium 4 or 4M - all of which are capable of running industry standard operating systems.

The units offer a 12 or 15", 1024x768 high-brightness display that sits behind a tough polycarbonate window for added protection against abrasion, chemicals and accidental impacts. User input is via a sealed QWERTY keyboard and integral glide mouse and, as well as its PCI card expansion slots, the THORpac provides many standard connections including USB, Serial and Ethernet/LAN. The larger model allows further expandability with the option of the addition of customer application specific electronics in a separate bay.



THORpac PORTABLE PC



THORpac

Our People - Delivering More Value to You

Captec is delighted to have been awarded the prestigious Investors in People accreditation. This is a welcome recognition and highlights Captec's structured planning process to harness training and development to meet business goals.

Research among employers and organisations who use the 'Investors in People' Standard has shown that over 90% have increased customer satisfaction and 70% have improved their competitive edge, productivity, and are considerably more flexible and adaptable to change.

The benefits have contributed to a consistent year-on-year growth with increased professionalism, commitment and customer service, thereby releasing far greater customer value.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Accreditation confirms Captec's commitment, demonstrated by continuous improvement and application of best practice, which further supports the Tried, Tested and Trusted brand.

From over here to over there



Captec Opens North American Office

Captec is pleased to announce the official opening of its North American office based in Canada's prestigious Technology Triangle in Ontario. The CTT is world renowned for innovation, boasting 3 world class engineering universities and is set in the heart of Ontario's manufacturing heartland. It's proximity to the US border and its excellent transport links enable full access to both the Canadian and US markets.

This expansion represents a significant financial investment and a business plan milestone to fuel the growth of Captec into new markets. Headed by General Manager Brian Inglis, Captec Americas Inc will cover a scope of functions including sales and marketing, manufacturing, technical support and service centre.

By leveraging the American market, Captec aim to combine product volumes with Europe's, resulting in greater manufacturing volume with associated cost savings. This will benefit customers on both sides of the Atlantic. The facility will also serve to assist Captec's global customers to receive local product supply and technical support, thereby reducing costs and response timescales.

To raise awareness in the market Captec exhibited at the National Manufacturing Week Exhibition in Chicago in late March. This is the leading manufacturing automation exhibition in North America and served as the springboard of what will be a number of sales and marketing activities to raise awareness in the market.

Solutions designed to Perform for You

With this brief news update we hope to demonstrate a small sample of solutions that Captec is regularly delivering to its wide diversity of customers. With every new solution that we implement we build on our knowledgebase and expand our capabilities.

At Captec we help you implement inspired, best value solutions, for your industrial computing requirements that you can trust won't let you down.

We offer inspired solutions to your needs from a capable company with a long established reputation and record built on results.

Managing cost of ownership, innovative new designs, or obsolescence and change, are just some of our customers concerns.

How do you manage yours today?



If you have suffered with the rest now prosper with the best

UK Office

Captec Ltd, Brunel Way, Segensworth, Fareham, Hampshire, PO15 5TX, UK.
www.captec.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 1489 866066
Fax: +44 (0) 1489 866088
Email: sales@captec.co.uk

German Office

Captec GmbH, Karlsruher Strasse 11/1, D-70771 Leinfelden-Echterdingen, Germany
www.captec-gmbh.de
Tel: +49 (0) 711/220630 00
Fax: +49 (0) 711/220630 25
Email: sales@captec.gmbh.de

North American Office

675 Queen Street South, 220 Woodside Business Centre Kitchener, ON, N2M 1A1, Canada
www.captecamericas.com
Tel: +01 (519) 576-3336
Fax: +01(519) 576-3992
Email: sales@captecamericas.com



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

