



Australian Government

Department of Defence
Capability Development Group

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6 February 2007

Opentec Solutions

OPENFIRE Rugged Portable Computers

The Australian Army's Battlefield Command Support System (BCSS) was first deployed into 1st Brigade (Mechanised) in Darwin in Australia's tropical North in February of 1999 and has since deployed across Australia, and on overseas service. User accesses the BCSS application through the latest computer hardware, running specialized software within a Windows Operating System.

The BCSS has been fitted to military vehicles and dismounted command posts at formation, unit and sub-unit headquarters. The Australian Army operate in some of the most demanding environmental conditions in the world: Conditions that range from wet and humid tropical jungles to the hot and dusty deserts of northern Australia. The Australian Army's desire for a robust command support system has created the need for environmentally protected, impact resistant hardware incorporating the latest computer technology.

The Army has sought hardware that can be maintained in the field and supported through the normal logistics process without special handling or unique procedures. The Openfire series of rugged portable computers, manufactured and supplied by Opentec Solutions and certified MIL-STD-461E compliant, have been selected as the rugged deployable gateway system running the BCSS application since BCSS was first fielded. The Openfire has met the Army's requirement for a rugged, environmentally protected portable computing solution. In December of 2005 the fleet of 170 gateway computers was replenished with latest model incorporating touch screen technology.

Opentec has been responsive to the Army's evolving needs, continuing to develop and customize their product to accommodate maturing requirements. Changes have included the installation of military specific connectors, 24v DC native power input, MIL-STD-461E emissions compliance, touch screens and integrated DVD/RW drives. The Openfire has been codified with a Nato Stock Number (NSN).

Opentec has a good understanding of the standards and requirements that the Australian Army demands, and is constantly in contact with the Systems Project Office to ensure that support arrangements are maintained, and emerging requirements are included in future development.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Williams', written over a horizontal line.