



DMO

Defence Materiel Organisation
Command and Support Systems Branch

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 1999 and since then has been deployed into other areas across Australia. The user accesses the BCSS application through the use of the latest computer hardware, running specialised software within a Windows NT operating system. BCSS is operated at various tactical levels (up to formation headquarters) and in all environmental conditions. It is installed in a range of military vehicles at formation, unit and sub-unit level and in their tented command posts when dismounted.

The Australian Army operates in some of the most demanding environmental conditions in the world. BCSS is therefore required to operate efficiently under these extreme conditions: everything from wet tropical jungle conditions to the intense heat, fine dust and high humidity of northern Australia can be encountered. BCSS has been used in all these environments.

One of the requirements of the Australian Army is to operate the BCSS system, both software and hardware, with minimal failure rates. This has created the need for environmentally protected, impact resistant hardware incorporating the latest computer technology. The hardware must be able to be easily maintained in the field environment and supported through the normal logistics process with minimal special handling or unique procedures.

The Openfire Series of Rugged Portable computers, manufactured and supplied by Opentec, have been used as the deployable rugged workstation 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.

Opentec has been most responsive to the Army's evolving needs, continuing to make changes and customise their product to accommodate our requirements. These changes have included the installation of military specification connectors, a 24/28volt native DC power input, and the implementation of Mil Std 461D (Army Ground) emissions compliancy.

Opentec has supported the Openfire Rugged Portable systems running BCSS on an Australia wide basis over the past three years. Opentec has met the requirements of the support contract in all regards. The Company has a good understanding of the standards and requirements that the Australian Army demands and is constantly in contact with the Systems Program Office to ensure that they are appraised of our ever-changing needs.

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