

TOUGHNEWS

RACC: shaping up to be the automobile association of the future.



The new CF-F8: business ruggedised quality with a handle.



Project Inland Ice: travelling through the habitat of polar bears.



Neveu's events are the perfect way in which to get ready for the Dakar Rally. The desert offers the perfect conditions for clocking up valuable training kilometres, including deep dune sand. Some of the top teams that do this are BMW X-raid and Mitsubishi, with

FROM SPEED DEMON TO DESERT FOX

Few people are as familiar with the Sahara as Cyril Neveu, who won the motorbike race of the legendary Paris-Dakar Rally, the toughest rally in the world, no less than five times. Now he himself is choosing the course of desert rallies in Tunisia and Morocco together with his events agency NPO. And to do so, he tries out the routes himself, gathering data on his CF-19 on the way.

It would seem that 52-year-old Cyril Neveu never tires of rising to the challenge of a desert rally. Even though his successes as a professional off-road motorcyclist are now firmly in the past, he has not turned his back on this radical form of sport, keeping his finger in the pie via his events agency NPO. These days, he successfully plans and organises the Rallye du Maroc and the Rallye de Tunisie. And because the right materials are crucial, he never ventures

into the Sahara to plan a route without taking his fully ruggedised Toughbook CF-19 with him. "Whether it's in vehicles or notebooks, technology that can cope with the extreme heat, dust and shakes over brutally long distances is very hard to come by. Which is why the CF-19 is number one for me," says Cyril Neveu with conviction. The convertible Toughbook CF-19 is more suited to extreme conditions than any other notebook, as the keyboard, the display and

all the ports are both water and dust-resistant. Temperatures of -20 °C and +60 °C, which are not uncommon in the cockpit in the desert, have no detrimental effect on the Toughbook's functions. And the same can be said for vibrations and shocks. The display can be tilted over the keyboard, making it possible to enter data via the touchscreen while travelling, for the duration of the 7-hour battery life and even in direct sunlight. For the professionals, Cyril

drivers such as Carlos Sainz, Giniel de Villiers, Stéphane Peterhansel and Jean-Louis Schlesser. The real planning and organisation only gets under way once the route has been thoroughly tested. Here, too, Cyril Neveu makes use of a Toughbook, the Executive CF-Y5. Assuming his son Alexis hasn't run off with it, that is.

1 Adventures in the Sahara. Man and machine pushed to the limit. 2 The Panasonic Toughbook: perhaps the most popular front-seat passenger in the extreme heat.

MORE COMPACT THAN EVER: THE FIRST ULTRA MOBILE PC

With its new extremely ruggedised Toughbook CF-U1, Panasonic has created a whole new category of notebooks and has consolidated its commitment to developing special solutions for individual user groups. The especially compact CF-U1 is the first ultra mobile PC (UMPC), and is extremely shock-resistant, efficient and economical on energy. And with a 5.6-inch touchscreen, it caters perfectly to the needs of, for example, service technicians or reps, who require

maximum reliability, mobility and resilience. Weighing a mere 1,060 grams, the ultra mobile CF-U1 is suitable for use anywhere and everywhere. It features a full operating system, numerous and various optional extras, and a battery life of up to 9 hours. It therefore puts an end to the search for an acceptable alternative to conventional handhelds with only limited functions.

For more information, see page 3.



“Panasonic wants to focus on you, the customer, so we are developing a new market-specific approach. This approach will ensure you have a dedicated Toughbook team in your industry sector. The role of the vertical team is to understand the value drivers within each industry and then meet their specific requirements. We will use our experts to follow developments in each industry and show you, the customer, that we speak your language. We will explain what we can bring to your business and how we can drive it forward by helping tailored solutions to meet your particular needs. An approach like this cannot succeed unless we understand in a meaningful way the issues that are important to each customer, so the vertical team will understand what is important to you. The beauty of the vertical approach is that while it truly focuses on the specific drivers behind each indus-

try, it also addresses key areas common to all companies. We have already started vertical sector teams for Police, Utilities, Telecoms, Sales Work Force, Automotive and Healthcare, with more to follow. The vertical team can assist with personalised business cases that will examine your application and justify the total value proposition for your business. The vertical team looks forward to supporting your needs.”



Kevin Davidson
General Manager, European Sales
Panasonic Computer Products Europe

EDITORIAL

THE RACC INTRODUCES THE GARAGE ON WHEELS

The more modern a vehicle, the more technology can be found under the bonnet. This takes comfort and safety to impressively high levels. But in the event of a breakdown, it's no use someone coming to your assistance if they are unable to make a diagnosis. The Spanish motoring association RACC is rectifying this situation – with service and the Toughbook CF-19.

The RACC is the biggest automobile association in Spain, with 3,299 service vehicles at 910 bases attending to the needs of its more than 1.1 million members. Increasingly, its members are placing calls to ask for assistance due to problems with their cars' electronics. In this situation, a mechanic can only do so much, as the problem with the electronics is not visible externally. It takes a reliable diagnostics tool to pinpoint the cause of the breakdown. The RACC is therefore installing robust, fully ruggedised Toughbook CF-19s in many of its service vehicles in order to be able to have quick access to databases containing technical information relating to more than 1,000 different vehicles.

Breakdowns can occur whatever the weather

It's not just the hot Spanish summers that can cause problems – damp weather can be an issue too. Not to mention vibrations, dust, dirt and impacts. Without a specially protected keyboard and ports, and without an extra cushioned hard drive, a conventional notebook would soon break down itself. But not so the Toughbook CF-19: it is ready to use at temperatures anywhere between -20 °C and +60 °C, with excellent protection from any extreme external influences such as water and dirt – and even small drops.

Doubly reliable: as a notebook or a tablet PC

The 10.4-inch display with an extra low reflex rate guarantees excellent readability, even in direct sunlight. And with a battery life of up to 7 hours, you can use it for the best part of your working day. One more feature that swung the RACC's opinion in favour of the 2.3 kg light Toughbook CF-19 is that it serves both as a conventional notebook and as a tablet PC. Simply tilt the display over the keyboard and in an instant your Tough-



book has been transformed to meet your needs. The ease of entering data via the touchscreen makes diagnosing the cause of the breakdown even more straightforward. Connectivity options including Bluetooth and HSDPA provide for speedy data transfer wherever you are and whatever the external conditions. With this equipment on board, an RACC service vehicle is essentially a garage on wheels, with breakdown diagnostics abilities that improve the quality of the vehicle's breakdown call-outs. This takes the RACC one step closer to the goal it has set itself: becoming one of the most modern automobile associations in Europe.

1 The RACC and the CF-19 arrive. And the electronics defect no longer looks quite so ominous. 2 Mobile access to diagnosis data for more than 1,000 different vehicles.



THE PERSONAL TOUCH FOR GREATER SUSTAINABILITY

More and more companies are now working towards operating sustainably. And the German Environmental Management Association (B.A.U.M. e.V.) is doing its bit too. Martin Oldeland is a board member. And the CF-W7 is his Toughbook Executive.



B.A.U.M. e.V. has achieved a great deal since it was founded as the first non-party business initiative for the environment, back in 1984. More and more, environmental awareness is being considered as an economic factor by businesses, institutions, in politics and by the general public. B.A.U.M. e.V. now also has associate organisations, all of which are part of the umbrella organisations INEM, imparting the same message in 26 countries. But there is still lots to do, and Martin Oldeland is therefore on the road quite a lot. And wherever he goes, he takes his Toughbook Executive CF-W7 with him.

Independence spawns greater efficiency
"It's small, light and efficient, and I take it everywhere," says Martin Oldeland, who has come to particularly appreciate the light weight (just 1,280 g) and long battery life (up to 9.5 hours) of his Toughbook, having had to use it so much when travelling. Because being able to work independently results in greater efficiency, as time spent waiting and travelling can now be used more productively. Martin Oldeland has mobile access to the association's server



via UMTS and engages in Internet-based research. He also finds the dictation software and the DVD drive very practical. Travelling isn't always a relaxed affair. But the CF-W7 is perfectly able to cope with strains such as vibrations, knocks, inadvertently spilled liquids and being dropped by accident. This is another reason why this is Martin Oldeland's second Toughbook, after the CF-T2. Back at his B.A.U.M. e.V. office, Martin Oldeland hooks his Toughbook up to an external keyboard and a large monitor, having made a conscious decision to avoid getting a stationary computer – for more than just environmental reasons.

1 Sustainability is Martin Oldeland's objective. And the CF-W7 is his Panasonic Toughbook Executive.

SIZE IS EVERYTHING – WHEN IT'S SMALL

It's not possible to summarise everything the new Toughbook CF-U1 has to offer in just a few words. Especially when it comes to the whole new level of extremely robust functionality, lightness and performance that it delivers. And all in compact dimensions that until now, only handhelds, and not whole computers, were able to achieve.

The Toughbook CF-U1 is quite literally a "small" revolution. It is the first ultra mobile PC for service technicians and truly comes into its own where the size and performance of a fully ruggedised Toughbook is excessive.

Small on the outside, bursting with features on the inside

Like its big brothers, the extremely ruggedised Panasonic Toughbook CF-U1 is resistant to drops, water and dust (IP 54 and MIL-STD 810F-compliant), works at temperatures ranging from -20°C to +60°C, and features practical touchscreen data entry. Not only that – it is also very light, and weighs little more than 1,000g, which is roughly the equivalent of a bottle of water. It also has stamina and can run on its battery for up to 9 hours. It's economical and fast too, thanks to the very latest Intel® Centrino® Atom™ Processor Technology with a low-power processor. In terms of design and ergonomics, the Toughbook CF-U1 has been made with demanding use in practice in mind, and the convenient 5.6-inch touchscreen is perfect for accurate data entry.

More than a handheld: simpler and more economical

PDA-based operating systems are always a compromise, as synchronisation can only be performed using auxiliary programs. Users then also incur additional costs for software and its customisation. The Toughbook CF-U1 features a full Windows® XP or Windows Vista® operating system, which saves time and cuts out circuitous methods such as elaborate application customisation. With the very latest Intel® Centrino® Atom™ Processor Technology, Internet access is ready to go straight away. WLAN and Bluetooth also contribute to making communication even easier. And with the optional HSDPA module and a 3G broadband network, it is also very fast. Further features that can be integrated, such as a bar code reader, RFID, a digital camera, GPS or a fingerprint sensor, make the CF-U1 the "Swiss Army knife" of mobile computing.

- 1 Practical, fast and productive: touchscreen data entry.
- 2 Top performance in safe hands: size is of no consequence with the CF-U1.
- 3 Mobility at your fingertips thanks to the ergonomic hand strap.



CF-U1

Full operating system:

Genuine Windows Vista® Business or Genuine Windows® XP Professional (Downgrade).

Extremely ruggedised Toughbook: fanless design, dust and water-resistant (in accordance with the IP-54 norm).

Shockproof: can withstand a drop from a height of up to 120 centimetres undamaged, even when in operation.

5.6" LCD with touchscreen (WSVGA).

Battery life: up to 9 hours.

High mobile performance: integrated WLAN and Bluetooth (optional HSDPA module for fast data transfer).

Light Toughbook: weighs just 1,060 g.



DOUBLY NEW AND SINGULARLY IMPRESSIVE

Now faster and more mobile, the updated Panasonic Toughbook CF-52 raises the bar in the semi-ruggedised class in terms of robust productivity, and caters for pretty much all possible needs. And if there's anything it can't do, the Highversion of the new CF-52 can surely do it.

Even more computational power, improved graphics and optimised mobility with a practical handle: the standard version of the new CF-52 alone sets quite a high benchmark, running on the very latest Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor. Even demanding multimedia applications impressively come alive on the 15.4-inch active-matrix LCD in 16:10 widescreen format. And the usual features such as protection from data loss and failure safety, and durability in rough and ready everyday use by service technicians all come as standard.

The Highversion: the power project

There is also an even more efficient version of the Toughbook CF-52 that is available with project customisation, featuring an even faster Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor and larger hard drive space and RAM. A further advantage is its improved handling and the expanded security options. It also features a different screen with a better resolution: instead of the usual

1,280 x 800 pixels, the Highversion has an impressive 1,920 x 1,200 pixels.

Online in a flash, wherever you go

Mobility is nothing without communication. Which is why the new Toughbook CF-52 boasts notably improved range and speed, for WLAN at speeds of up to 13 Mbps, or up to 7.2 Mbps with the optional HSDPA module outside of the networks. The safety levels are in keeping with the typically high Toughbook standards, with a waterproof keyboard and touchpad, shock-absorbent foam cushioning for the hard drive and a magnesium alloy casing. So, should you inadvertently let go of the practical carry handle, your Toughbook will generally nevertheless be fine, in spite of the drop.

- 1 More performance, more productivity, and less risk of equipment failure.
- 2 Robust mobility at hand wherever you go: the new CF-52.
- 3 Two new forms of support for service technicians.



CF-52

Operating system:

Genuine Windows Vista® Business or Genuine Windows® XP Professional (Downgrade).

Semi-ruggedised Toughbook: robust casing, withstands drops from heights of up to 76 cm.

Keyboard and touchpad water-resistant.

Integrated fold-out handle for convenient and secure carrying.

Battery life: up to 7 hours.

Large, 15.4" widescreen display, integrated multi drive.

High mobile performance: integrated WLAN and Bluetooth (optional HSDPA module for fast data transfer).



THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME ON ICE



Most people would ask themselves what on earth they were doing if they found themselves in the arctic temperatures of Greenland in the month of April. Some, though, would see it as a challenge, taking five friends and a Toughbook CF-30 with them to be able to tell the story of a lifetime. Just like the adventure seekers of Project Inland Ice.



It's 16 April 2008 and five men and a woman from Utrecht in the Netherlands set off from Kangerlussuaq to cross the ice plains of Greenland from west to east on skis. Two years in the planning, their expedition will take them across a gruelling 580 kilometres – with no outside help, and faced not only with temperatures of around -30°C, but also with the possibility of encountering some polar bears on the way. They are driven by the fascination of an adventure that may well no longer be possible in the not too distant future. And they want to raise awareness of the visible consequences of global warming. To help them out, they have a fully ruggedised Toughbook CF-30 with them.

Lifeline to the outside world

The expedition team stay in touch with the rest of the world with the CF-30 – the Toughbook that is best equipped for adventures of this ilk. It can cope with water, dirt,

and being knocked and dropped, and even has integrated HDD heating to keep it going at temperatures as low as -20°C. And soon after being booted up, the operating system is ready for phone calls and data transfer via an iridium phone and satellite. This means the team can post the latest developments and upload images to the website on a daily basis, for the world to see. Even the live video linkup the team promised goes off without a hitch, allowing the team to chat to school pupils online. Even with a rechargeable battery life of 7 hours, the Panasonic Toughbook CF-30 nevertheless needs to be recharged along the way. And this is done with the help of solar cells. The touchscreen can even be used with gloves on and, thanks to its 1,000 candela, is so bright that it can still be read with the sun shining directly on it. After 32 days of hardship, doubts and struggling, the team finally reach their destination – the east coast of Greenland.



1 580 kilometres from west to east: a truly unforgettable experience. 2 The polar circle has its own, unique form of fashion. 3 Video messages for the world sent out via the CF-30. 4 Right through the natural habitat of the polar bear. What would a polar bear make of a Toughbook?

THE NEW CF-F8 – PRACTICAL, STYLISH AND COMING SOON

Does your work entail you being on the move a lot, both in the office and generally? Are you looking for a notebook to be robust and fast, but also stylish in design? And to not weigh too much? If so, your wait will soon be over because the lightest 14.1" notebook in a widescreen format is set to be launched soon. And it's called the Toughbook Executive CF-F8.

Once you have got your hands on its practical carry handle, you're unlikely to want to ever let go of the new, ultra light Toughbook Executive CF-F8 again. Not only does it look great, it is also packed with some top-quality features, boasting superb mobility, a 14.1-inch widescreen display and a large, easy-to-use keyboard. It also has the very latest in processor technology, with the incredibly fast Intel® Centrino® vPro™. And in spite of the high performance it offers, it is nevertheless low on energy consumption, meaning you can make good use of it for up to 6 hours before having to plug it back into the mains.

Design combined with performance and security

The new CF-F8 is set to be uniquely mobile, compact and handy, for working on the move. It is therefore equipped with the protection that sets a Toughbook apart, with resistance to water and knocks coming as standard. Your valuable data is therefore kept secure, even if the CF-F8 falls from a small height or is involved in some other kind of mishap.



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AN ELECTRIFYING PRIZE!

Here's your chance to win a prize that's as mobile and as efficient as a Toughbook, but much more roadworthy – win one of 5 eScooters! They're great fun and feature forward-looking electrical power, and are small enough to weave through traffic. You can even fold one up and store it in your car boot. As usual, TOUGHNEWS subscribers are entered into the prize draw automatically. Not a subscriber yet? Simply register at

<http://toughbook.eu/raffle/scooter/default.aspx?lang=eng>

