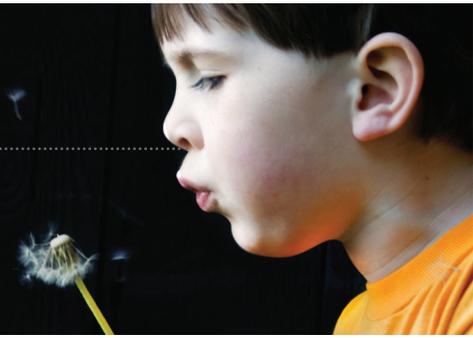


New Zealand Steel



“With tonnes of iron sand dust and furnace temperatures of up to 1200 degrees, there are few environments more challenging to delicate electronics than a working steel mill.”

That’s why New Zealand Steel has invested in a suite of rugged field computers from LXE Honeywell. They are using two of the latest products - the hand-held Marathon, and the machine-mounted VX9 – which are proving to be more than up to the task.

A leader in the field

We interviewed a scarfing bay operator who has worked at New Zealand Steel for more than 20 years, and has adapted to several advances in inventory management during that time. Today, he uses the Marathon daily to identify and track individual slab movements.

“Of all the handhelds we’ve used over the years, this is the best one.”

“Of all the handhelds we’ve used over the years, this is the best one,” he says.



“It’s like walking around with a mini-computer, but it’s also really rugged. We need it to function in all kinds of conditions...in the rain, heat, and around magnetic fields near cranes.”

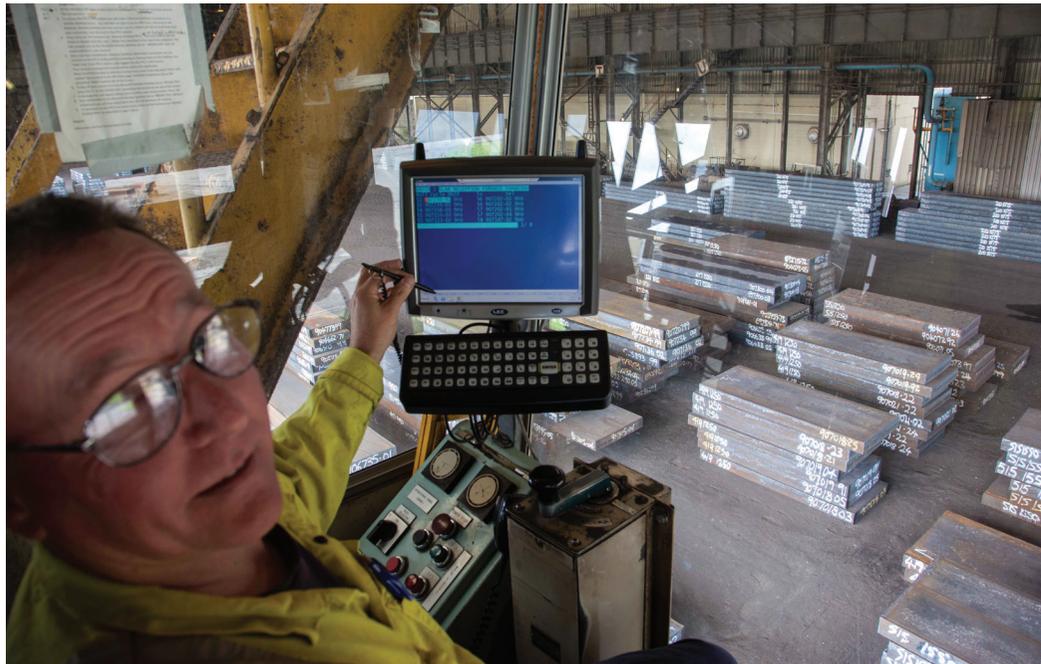
The Marathon connects seamlessly and reliably to the site wide 802.11n wireless network; providing access to real-time inventory and other critical operational information. The device also supports WLAN and GPS.

“The Marathon is really quick and responsive. It updates screen and application changes a lot faster than our old model,” adds the operator.

“Previously, if the connection dropped out, you would lose any recent updates made. That doesn’t happen now.”

Vehicle-mounted options

Interlogic has also supplied New Zealand Steel with the LXE VX9, the vehicle mounted version of the field computer. There are now 17 devices installed in a range of mobile equipment – including cranes, forklifts and slab carriers.



“The LXE equipment is manufactured to military-grade specs and has an IP65-rating.”

New Zealand Steel decided to upgrade from the older model to take advantage of the wireless speed improvements, and the use of solid state hard drives. The latter is an important feature to overcome the vibrations generated by heavy-duty vehicles like the slab carrier cranes, which can carry up to 100 tonnes of steel.

One of the slab crane operators interviewed says the VX9 has made his job more efficient, by providing real-time instructions and excellent coverage.

“And it’s a very easy device to use. Anyone with basic computer skills will be immediately comfortable using these mobile devices.”



Like the Marathon, the VX9 is built to work in demanding conditions – including temperatures of up to 50 degrees Celsius.

“When the crane is sitting above hot steel slabs, the temperature in the cab can get pretty hot,” says another crane operator.

“The VX9 remains connected to the slab moving application, and the large touch screen gives you really good visibility when working nightshift.”

Built for the tough jobs

As Les Wootton explains, the LXE product line is being transitioned to the Honeywell brand. This includes the launch of a new line of products that are purpose-built for supply chain execution markets, including manufacturing, warehousing, cold storage, ports, and intermodals.

“The LXE/Honeywell products are equally at home in environments like mills, ports and other heavy industrial sites - wherever real-time data collection is needed,” says Wootton.

The team at Interlogic design, build and implement warehouse management solutions. Systems are designed through a process of analysis and conceptual design refinement blending the right mix of software, Material Handling Equipment, and practical warehouse knowledge to construct a solution that is right for your operation.

A 100% owned New Zealand company, Interlogic has 18 years experience in designing and installing intelligent logistics systems in New Zealand and Australia.

Interlogic Limited
5 Ceres Court
Albany, Auckland
New Zealand
PO Box 10-1330
Auckland 0745

Phone +64 9 414 1104

Fax +64 9 414 2514

Email team@interlogic.co.nz

Web www.interlogic.co.nz

interlogic
complex logistics made simple