

Future-proofing Healthcare logistics with a unique application

Datalogic's Skorpion™ X5 Mobile Computer impresses Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg

Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg switched to the Skorpion X5 when implementing SAP S/4HANA. The mobile data terminal enables flawless healthcare logistics and impresses on all fronts.



Objective

- New, modern ERP application
- Modern and user-friendly mobile data terminals

Requirements

- Ergonomic and functional design
- Maximum number of physical function keys on terminals
- Pistol grip for the PDT
- Optimal battery life and easy battery replacement

Technical Requirements

- Optimal Wi-Fi connectivity
- Active roaming on terminals

Solution

- 30 Datalogic Skorpion X5 mobile data terminals
- Web-based ERP system runs directly on terminals without app intervention

From left to right: Vital Jehaes, SAP key user, Raf Bylois, Logistics Work Manager, and Joris Thys, IT Programme Manager at Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg.

Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg (ZOL for short), is the largest hospital organization in Belgian Limburg and has over 1,000 authorized beds. The hospital group has two healthcare facilities: ZOL Genk, with campuses in Genk, Lanaken and Waterschei, and ZOL Maas en Kempen, with a campus in Maaseik. Both healthcare facilities have been using Datalogic's Skorpion X5 portable data terminal for all healthcare logistics since the start of 2023. "A total of 30 PDTs have been supplied. We use most of them here in Genk," says Raf Bylois, Logistics Work Manager at the hospital. "Our previous ERP system was outdated, so we went in search of a new application. We launched a tender process for that in 2022," adds IT Programme Manager Joris Thys. "We were looking for a modern system that is intuitive and user-friendly." The search led ZOL to SAP S/4HANA.

Both suppliers on the shortlist initially proposed a different mobile terminal. ZOL tested the proposed devices extensively, but they proved less practical after all. "They were fully touchscreen. A physical keyboard with function keys was lacking, when it is precisely those function keys that improve ease of use. In addition, the scanners could not be supplied with a pistol grip. And we were also keen to have those, as our previous PDAs regularly got lost," Bylois explains.



The Datalogic Skorpion X5 enables worry-free healthcare logistics and impresses on all fronts.

Results

- Modern healthcare logistics application
- Future-proof solution
- Enables stock inventory and track & trace



The ERP system runs directly on the new Datalogic terminals without the intervention of an app.



One of ZOL's key requirements: a physical keyboard with the maximum number of function keys



The pistol grip enables practical use and helps reduce the likelihood of the terminals getting lost.



“However, time was starting to run out. It was already late November and we wanted the new application to be fully operational in January, at the start of the new financial year,” Thys continues. Via All Modul, ZOL made contact with Datalogic, who acted quickly and arrived on site with a new device, the Skorpio X5. The decision was soon made after testing different versions of the powerful and robust key-based PDT. The Skorpio X5 scans any code effortlessly, even if it is damaged, scratched or under film. Higher productivity and fewer errors are therefore assured. “The scanner is also highly intuitive, robust and user-friendly,” adds Bylois.

The new Datalogic terminals are used in the hospital daily to full satisfaction. At the start of each working day, warehouse staff go around all the departments in the hospital to check work stocks in the 80 service warehouses. The stock card is scanned where necessary. The ERP then uses all the scans to generate orders that are collected in the central warehouse. “About 2,200 SKUs are available directly from stock. The ERP also determines the most optimal routes when collecting the required items. The Datalogic terminals are also used during order picking,” Bylois adds. And ZOL uses the Skorpio X5 for goods receipt and the allocation of incoming goods in the central warehouse.

SAP S/4HANA runs directly on the Datalogic terminals without the intervention of an app. “SAP S/4HANA is a web-based solution that processes large volumes of data in real-time. Optimal Wi-Fi connectivity is therefore essential for us, so we tested this thoroughly,” Thys explains. The Skorpio X5 uses active roaming for that. This means the scanner actively searches for subsequent access points on the route, so the terminal never loses the connection with SAP.

Battery life, unique contactless charging and ease of battery replacement also stand out. “When changing the battery, the screen goes off for a moment, but as soon as the new battery is inserted, you can get straight back to work,” explains Vital Jehaes, a key user of SAP at ZOL. “The pistol grip took some getting used to for many employees, but soon even the ‘opposers’ were convinced. It is far nicer to use and the scanners are less likely to get lost.”

“Of course, we are constantly looking at further optimization,” continues Bylois. “We have now acquired holsters for several employees, for example. The terminals can be stored in them easily and safely when goods need to be picked up with both hands.”

ZOL can manage and configure the devices centrally via mobile device management. In addition, the PDTs can also be used for inventories and to facilitate a seamless transition to the planned new central warehouse. “That new warehouse will be off campus, so flawless tracking and tracing will be even more crucial then,” Thys asserts. “The Skorpio X5 offers a solution for that too. It really is future-proofed in every way.”

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