



Tripod Data Systems Approves Socket's Family of Connection Products for Customizing Recon Handheld Computer

Recon Supports Socket's CompactFlash Cards with a Sealed CF-Cap For Use in Harsh Environments

NEWARK, CA – September 8, 2003 — Socket Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ: [SCKT](#), PSE: SOK), the Mobile Connection™ Company, and Tripod Data Systems (TDS), a wholly owned subsidiary of Trimble (NASDAQ: TRMB), today announced that TDS has approved Socket's Mobility Friendly™ CompactFlash (CF) product family for adding custom capabilities to the TDS Recon™ rugged handheld computer. The Socket products chosen for Recon solutions include the CF 802.11b Wireless LAN, the InHand Scan laser and imager, Digital Phone Cards, and a CF card using Bluetooth® wireless technology. TDS customers can purchase Socket products from TDS or through Socket's worldwide branded sales channels.

TDS previously announced the adoption of Socket's CF card with Bluetooth wireless technology for use with the Recon. The compact card fits securely under Recon's impact-absorbing, watertight CF-Cap™ to ensure reliable performance in harsh environments. The approval of other Socket products broadens the options available for TDS and Recon customers to include short-range, enterprise and wide-area wireless connectivity, along with linear, 2-D, matrix and postal bar code reading.

"The Recon handheld computer was designed so that users could work with their data in tough environments without worrying about the effects of extreme temperature, dust, drops, and water immersion," said Bill Martin, director of marketing for TDS. "By adding the Socket CompactFlash accessories to the Recon, users get the best of both worlds: a rugged computing device plus a variety of connection options to customize their application."

"Socket and TDS have worked hard on ensuring compatibility and addressing existing as well as new markets for Recon end users," said Mike Gifford, founder, executive vice president and general manager of Socket's Embedded Systems Group. "We are pleased that TDS has approved Bluetooth wireless technology, Wi-Fi, and bar code scanning for the Recon. We look forward to delivering enhanced solutions to the marketplace with TDS."

Socket Communications will demonstrate its products at the Frontline Supply Chain Week show September 16-18 in Chicago. Both companies will exhibit at the Pocket PC Summit at CTIA Wireless IT show, October 22-23 in Las Vegas.

About the Recon

The Recon rugged handheld computer comes with a 200 or 400 MHz Intel® XScale™ processor, 64 MB of SDRAM and up to 128 MB of internal nonvolatile Flash storage. It features two CompactFlash slots, plus a standard 9-pin serial port and a high-speed USB port for connecting to a PC. The standard PowerBoot Module™ includes a 15-hour rechargeable NiMH battery.

The Recon's rugged construction makes it ideal for land surveying, mapping, construction, forestry, utility, facilities and asset management, machine control, law enforcement and military applications.

It weighs just 17 ounces, and its rounded edges provide a comfortable grip. Large, widely spaced buttons are easy to use, and its reflective color TFT display is bright and clear in sunlight. The Recon exceeds the MIL-STD-810F military standard for drops, vibration and temperature extremes. It also comes with an IP67 rating, meaning it's impenetrable to water immersion and dust.

About Tripod Data Systems

Tripod Data Systems (TDS) designs and manufactures hardware and software for mobile computing applications. The TDS Ranger™ and Recon handheld computers are designed for extreme outdoor and industrial environments in the land surveying, mapping, forestry, utility, machine control, public safety and military markets. The rugged TDS Ranger was the first handheld computer based on the Windows CE operating system to meet military specifications for drop, vibration, immersion and both high and low temperature operation, and the Recon meets these tough standards as well. TDS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Trimble (NASDAQ: TRMB). The company is headquartered in Corvallis, Ore., and was founded in 1987. For more information about TDS, visit <http://www.tdsway.com/handhelds>, e-mail handhelds@tdsway.com or call 541-752-9000.

About Socket

Socket Communications, Inc., the Mobile Connection Company, provides a broad range of connection products for Windows-powered handheld computers, including connection kits with Bluetooth wireless technology, wireless LAN cards, digital phone cards, 56K modem cards, Ethernet cards and GPS solutions. In addition, Socket provides bar code scanning products and peripheral connection serial cards for laptops and other mobile devices. Socket also provides customized solutions embedding CF cards with Bluetooth wireless technology and KwikBlue modules. The company believes its Mobility Friendly™ products lead the market with the smallest footprint and most Battery Friendly® power consumption in their class while being easy to install, use and maintain. Socket products work with a variety of handheld devices including Pocket PCs, Palm PDAs and mobile phones. Socket is headquartered in Newark, California, and can be reached at (510) 744-2700, or on the Internet at www.socketcom.com.



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