



MODEL FW900 HANDHELD AND FP400 PRINTER



Radix FW900

#### About CAT

CAT (Consolidated African Technologies), located in Johannesburg, S. Africa has been a Radix Business Partner since 1990 . During this time, they have installed their Radix Systems at more than 400 sites throughout Africa in Botswana, Cameroon, Lesotho, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. They have in excess of 8000 ultra rugged Radix handheld computers in the field in daily use in Africa.

[www.cats.co.za](http://www.cats.co.za)

## Ultra-Rugged Radix Handhelds and Printers Ideal for Central Africa Application

After being awarded a World Bank sponsored contract from Connect Africa Technologies to implement a Meter Reading System with Field Billing for the electric and water utilities company in Rwanda, CAT (Consolidated African Technologies ) and their business partners worked with Radix Corporation to develop a effective system to stand up to the harsh environment. The system is comprised of 100 Radix FW900 units and associated Radix FP400 portable thermal printers for on-site field billing.

An important aspect of the technical specification was the requirement for the ultra rugged handheld computers and portable printers. Rwanda is in central Africa with a tropical climate that has either hot and wet or hot and dry weather conditions. The meter reading equipment must have an environmental rating and be IP67 to consistently and reliably function in both wet and dry environments. Hot and dusty conditions are a significant problem for electronics in Rwanda as well.

Another major requirement of the meter reading system was that it had to be capable of reading electricity and water meters and then issuing a bill on the premises. The bill had to be written in English and French and be waterproof. This solution significantly improved the utility's cash flow by allowing them to bill at the time the meters were read. Each customer is able to verify the amount of their bill against the actual reading on the meter. This innovation has greatly reduced the amount of calls complaining about incorrect billing.

The next phase of the system development was to introduce GPS, which is vital for the remote rural areas. CAT has developed their Remote Mobile Service that utilizes 3G technologies to enable data to be wirelessly transmitted and received even from the most remote rural areas of Rwanda.

Over the last twenty years CAT has been developing the meter reading and meter management software RouteMaster Africa.Net (RMA.Net). It has evolved through necessity from their vast footprint of African customers who continually require additional features and benefits. RMA.net facilitates in the generation and management of revenue when used with the Radix FW900 and FP400 . The system has increased meter reading productivity and enabled the creation of manageable routes and management reports.



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