



Product:

Itronix GoBook MAX

Application:

Elite America's Cup Sailing Team

Itronix Solution:

- GoBook MAX notebook computers that withstand the abusive environment of *Stars & Stripes*
- Prototype antiglare screen for enhanced daylight viewing
- Diamond iCare support

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Itronix designs, manufactures and deploys mission-critical wireless, rugged computing solutions that maximize the productivity of mobile workers.

For more than 15 years, Itronix has worked extensively in the utilities industry. Today, the company works with roughly 90% of the largest utilities in the United States, as well as organizations in the commercial field services, telecommunications, government, public safety and EMS markets.

More information about Itronix and its products are available at www.itronix.com

The America's Cup began in October of 2002 with a four-month challenger elimination series known as the Louis Vuitton Cup. The winner of the Louis Vuitton Cup will challenge Team New Zealand for the right to defend the America's Cup in a best of nine series starting on February 15, 2003.

Itronix Case Study:

Stars & Stripes

Situation: Pursuing America's Cup 2003

The America's Cup is the oldest trophy in sports history. In its 132-year existence, it has only been won away from the United States twice. The first time was in 1983 by Australia and the second time in 1995 by New Zealand. On October 1, 2002, nine sailing teams representing six nations will meet in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf to commence battle for sailing's grandest prize. In this grueling competition, Team Dennis Connor will need every advantage to bring the trophy back home to the United States.

Problem: Quest for the Cup, and a computer to match

A high-powered notebook computer can give sailors the edge in this demanding form of racing. "We have an incredibly high-tech system—Tactical software, GPS, the compasses, gyro sensors that tell us how the boat is pitching, rolling and accelerating," says Matt Gregory, one of the boats navigators. "The MAX is critically important because it's our interface to the entire technical system. Basically, everything else we have on Stars & Stripes are just black boxes that plug into the MAX."

The computer must be able to survive on the *Stars & Stripes* deck – one of the harshest environments on the planet. There it is exposed to a continuous spray of salt water, rain, intense sunlight and pounding vibration.

"The computer gets knocked around. It's even been blown off our mounting plate a few times," says Gregory.

An Itronix Solution:

The GoBook MAX is the perfect computer deck mate for Team Dennis Conner and the \$40 million *Stars & Stripes* program. Its sealed die-cast magnesium case guards

against the constant exposure to salt water and rain.

"It's a hundred times better than anything I've ever used on other boats," says tactician Terry Hutchinson. "Stars & Stripes is the upper echelon of the sport. Itronix is the upper echelon of technology."

A new ColorVue™ touchscreen is being tested on Stars & Stripes to enhance outdoor viewing. "It's probably the most incredibly intense sunlight environment anywhere," says Gregory. "We have light bouncing off of the Mylar sails, off of the water, and of course intense direct sunlight. Even a regular daylight computer isn't suitable. We're really excited about the new screens."

Vibrations aren't a problem with its 20GB shock-mounted hard drive and a 700 MHz Pentium III processor. The GoBook MAX won't hinder *Stars & Stripes'* speed either. It's the lightest and fastest ultra-rugged notebook PC in the world.

Results: Outperforming expectations

Team Dennis Conner has the finest team of American designers, sailors, boat builders and shore side support to win America's Cup XXXI and return the "Auld Mug" to the United States. Now with the Itronix solution, they also have the best technology on board to give them a competitive edge.

"In the past we had to really look after our laptops," said Hutchinson. "It was always the last thing on the boat and the first thing off. We don't even have to think about the Itronix."

Gregory agrees. "This stuff is great. It's here for a reason. When we're racing we trust it."