

Latvian State Forest Service Re-elects MobileMapper



A year after replacing its measuring tapes and survey compasses with 124 MobileMapper CX handheld GPS/GIS data collectors, the Latvian State Forest Service (SFS) is renewing its faith in Ashtech products with a new purchase of an additional 115 MobileMapper CX devices. Based on the success of its 2008 mobile GIS device deployment and use, SFS is targeting to equip as many field inspection crews as possible with Ashtech GPS/GIS data collectors for larger forestry management and control operations.

SFS foresters use the MobileMapper CX receivers to map forest parcels and locate forest and timber cutting boundaries. The MobileMapper CX units support a localized Latvian version of the popular ESRI ArcPad mapping software into which is loaded forest GIS data and orthophoto background maps from the state forestry registrar databases.

Following the national tender process, the Ashtech device was compared with two competitive brands and chosen once again for its convenience, simplicity and accuracy. MobileMapper CX is a rugged GPS handheld that delivers sub-meter real-time and even down to sub-foot post-processed accuracy at a very competitive price. Lightweight design, sun-readable touch-screen, large SD card support, Bluetooth and long-lasting swappable batteries are some of the embedded features that make the device very productive, easy-to-use and easily deployed to field crews.

In order to equip its hunting inspectors and forest reproductive material inspectors with a GPS device containing an integrated camera, the SFS purchased 12 MobileMapper 6 devices with integrated 2-megapixel cameras. The MobileMapper 6 can take photos and tag them with the GPS location for use as a point attribute in any GIS application. The MobileMapper 6 is a rugged GPS/GIS handheld receiver perfectly adapted for harsh outdoor applications that offers professional GPS/GIS features at a price competitive with consumer-grade GPS devices.

All MobileMapper products were purchased from Ashtech distributor SIA Envirotech, headquartered in Riga.

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