

Topcon Introduces FC-500 Handheld Data Collector for GIS



Topcon Positioning Group has announced an expansion to its line of GIS devices with the new FC-500 data controller. Offering a large, bright, sunlight-readable display screen, the FC-500 is developed as a perfect fit for any mapping application to maintain GIS databases for electric utilities, gas pipelines, disaster management, water and wastewater operations, forestry, highway maintenance, environmental applications and more.

Compatible with either the Topcon [eGIS](#) or MAGNET Field GIS software, the FC-500 is designed to create smooth and speedy dataflow between the field and office. The FC-500 has built-in wireless Bluetooth and WiFi connectivity, and an optional 3.5G cellular modem, allowing interaction from users in the field, to the office, and additionally to the cloud when used with [MAGNET Enterprise](#).

For GIS users who are dealing with massive amounts of data, the FC-500 increases productivity with information stored and accessed immediately in the cloud, making data transfer and retrieval virtually instantaneous. Users no longer have to wait until field work is completed to analyse and display data, leading to faster project completion times and better informed decision-making, according to Jason Hooten, national sales manager, GIS products.

The FC-500 is rugged with an IP68 water resistance rating, said Hooten. The unit is built to withstand unpredictable job site conditions. Additional features of the FC-500 include a 1GHz processor and 8GB flash storage. When used with MAGNET Field, users can imprint file information, including GPS location, directly on photos that are taken with the internal 5MP camera.

The FC-500 can also be used as a stand-alone device for 2-5 metre accuracy or as part of a complete high-accuracy GIS solution. Additional information on the FC-500 for GIS is available at topconpositioning.com.