

The Customer:

LONZA WAYNE

Lonza Wayne's MODA Paperless QC Micro Solution required a specialized rugged tablet that could survive the strict requirements of Cleanroom environments. Xplore's rugged iX104C5 DMCR tablets fit the bill.

Lonza

THE CUSTOMER

Lonza is global leader in the production and support of active pharmaceutical ingredients. Since 1897, Lonza of Switzerland has built its reputation on extensive high quality products, groundbreaking research, innovative services and steadfast traditions. Every day, Lonza's clients work to develop treatments, discover cures, and enhance lives, and Lonza is committed to being the trustworthy partner that they deserve.

Lonza's Wayne site in Pennsylvania was started when Lonza acquired MODA™ Technology back in 2010. Lonza Wayne carries out research and development and sales and support for Lonza. It also houses the Informatics Team, part of QC Testing Solutions, Lonza BioScience, the developers of the MODA™ Solution.

The MODA™ Solution reflects extensive research and development from Lonza's in-house Informatics software development team. It is fully supported by Lonza's global sales team and product specialists who can facilitate the implementation and installation of the MODA™ Solution at customer sites.



THE CHALLENGE

The MODA™ Solution allows organizations to automate quality control processes for regulated manufacturing by wireless computer, thereby improving productivity and accuracy while reducing paper waste. Moreover, the MODA™ Solution is specifically designed to work in cleanroom environments. Cleanrooms must comply with very high standards in order to prevent contamination: there must be low levels of environmental pollutants such as dust, airborne molecules, aerosol particles and chemical vapors. Specific guidelines dictate contaminant levels that must be followed precisely. Because of the restrictions necessary to meet environmental standards, one important consideration that must be taken into account is the type of equipment brought into the space.

THE BENEFITS

"Because of the adoption of the MODA™ Technology at Lonza Walkersville as well as various pharmaceutical companies, there is a demand for hardware that will meet the rigid requirements of a cleanroom.

Bradley Turner, Product Support Specialist, Informatics, QC Testing Solutions, finds that by providing the entire solution of software and hardware to its customers for their cleanroom use, "We are able to save our clients time and help avoid frustration in gathering and putting together a cleanroom-friendly hardware bundle that will work with our software.

In addition, if we can provide all of the hardware components, then our customers only have to set up with one trusted vendor versus setting up multiple vendors and managing relationships with all of them. This is particularly important because assembling a cleanroom packaged hardware kit is not easy."

The hardware must comply with many different specifications: they must be able to protect against the ingress of contaminants and cleaning solutions and hold up under random vibrations, temperature extremes and other stresses. "Computers that can meet the requirements of the cleanroom environment are a niche market," said Turner. He notes that currently, Lonza installs the MODA™ Software on Xplore™ iX104 rugged tablet computers to sell to their customers because "the Xplore™ computers meet cleanroom standards and enable us to provide a total package to our customers."

"We have found the Xplore™ tablets to be popular with our customers," said Turner, "particularly in light of the success and demand for handheld tablets... An IP rated, fanless, touch screen computer with USB and serial ports is critical for us... Because these computers are fan blocked, rugged and able to be wiped clean with strong cleaning agents, they work extremely well in a cleanroom situation," he said. Xplore has been a leader in the cleanroom tablet area, both with its C4™ tablet, as well as its recently introduced iX104C5-CR™, a computer specifically designed for cleanroom use.

In addition, the tablet computer is well-suited in terms of form for clean room use. "Technicians working in the cleanrooms are normally wearing full cleanroom suits with heavy rubber gloves, so the use of keyboards can be difficult at best. The tablet, with its ability to receive input either through a gloved touch or with a stylus, is very effective in a cleanroom environment," said Turner. He added, "The smoothness of the tablet is especially important, since fewer nooks and crannies mean less chance of contamination."



Another consideration to take into account is the specifics of the hardware needed to handle the demands of the MODA™ Software, while also being cleanroom compliant. "We are always looking for faster processors as our software transfers a significant amount of data at a time. The faster the machine the better": Xplore's™ tablets boast a powerful Intel® i7 processor, when coupled with the superior read/write rates of a SSD (that can be RAID 0 configurable), allows for unparalleled processing speeds that cannot be matched by any other competitor products.

Xplore Technologies is believed to be one of the few rugged tablet manufacturers to offer a rugged tablet computer specifically designed for use in cleanrooms. The iX104C5™ Dual Mode Cleanroom Fully-Rugged Tablet PC (known as iX104C5-DMCR™) was introduced in May 2011, and has a specialized cleanroom chassis, a custom cleanroom enclosure, powerhouse performance Intel® Core™ i7 platform; IP67 rating, one of the highest available; the industry's best SSD-single or Dual with RAID option; an enhanced rugged display for ambient outdoor/indoor use; tool-free access to SSD, SIM, MicroSD; and the highest capacity Li-Ion Battery in its class. This computer is ideal when it comes to capabilities, convenience, processing speed, durability, and integration with the unique requirements of a cleanroom.