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### **Toughbook Faces The Ultimate Test And Lives Up To Its Name**

Temperatures of -51°C, violent storms, hungry polar bears - all in a day's work for Gary Rolfe. One of the few men in history to have established the successful ingredients to succeed and survive alone in polar-regions with huskies, Rolfe, 38, has just returned from a month's training on the frozen Mackenzie River in Canada's Western Arctic.

In May 2002, Gary successfully completed his third consecutive Arctic Ocean expedition with huskies, totally unsupported and with no re-supply from the outside world. Last month, equipped with Panasonic's latest CF-18 Toughbook Notebook PC, Rolfe and his dogs battled savage weather conditions and still came back smiling. Offering two Toughbook's in one, the CF-18's fully robust design protected valuable data from impact, moisture, water, dust, and its light weight of only 2.0 kg enabled highly mobile use.

Combining state-of-the-art connectivity with a 10.4-inch, high visibility XGA display panel, that flips and closes over the unit's keyboard to become a fully functional touch screen tablet PC, the exceptionally portable PC with Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology meant the CF-18 offered maximum performance with minimal battery drain.

With the Arctic infamous for its brutal storms and thin, cracked floe edges much favoured by hunting polar bears and debilitating cold, durability is the CF-18's middle name and with its impact isolated hard drive and display panel, dust-proof 2-dimensional hinge and full magnesium casing made sure this PC put the tough in Toughbook. Additionally, the CF-18 offered a water-resistant, pressure-sensing touch pad integrated with the keyboard, letting the cursor be controlled whilst wearing gloves.

Commenting on the performance of the CF-18, Rolfe said:

"Laptops have been an integral part of my gear for years as they are vital for communication and sharing my experiences with the outside world. Using IT equipment in extreme cold can create a minefield of problems. For fear of creating a short circuit due to condensation I used to wait nearly five hours before booting up in the relative warmth of my tent – last month the Panasonic CF-18 Toughbook would fire up in less than two hours. I safely stored data, a diary and downloaded digital images from my camera.

Weight is always a consideration. For any one month my sled payload is 1,000lbs, 620lbs of that is dog food. The rest is my food and gear that enables me and the dogs to operate effectively. On my return I burnt 26 CD's with information I had gathered on the Toughbook.”

Additional features included handwriting-to-text conversion, enabling Gary to take notes, sketch diagrams and annotate existing reports and documents by hand, speech recognition and a revolutionary convertible, transfective LCD screen which delivered extraordinary brightness in all operating environments by automatically balancing sunlight and system backlight.

Rolfe said, “Polar journeys see my gear endure and witness a brutal existence. The CF-18 proved to be indeed, tough.”

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[www.panasonic.co.uk](http://www.panasonic.co.uk)

[www.garyrolfe.com](http://www.garyrolfe.com)

Digital images available on request.

