

CASE STUDY

PARKRUN

Independent non-profit organisation supported by commercial and various other supporters
Parkrun organise free weekly 5KM timed runs at local parks
It began in 2004 in the UK and is now expanding further afield
There are now Parkrun events every day of the week in countries all around the world

ERS

Leading UK system integrator in the field of automatic data entry and identification systems
Worked closely with Parkrun to develop and supply the "parkrun timer" solution used at every event both in the UK and worldwide
Founded in 1988

SPORTS

PARKRUN

Products:

Opticon OPN-2002 / 2006 Datacollector



Problem

Parkrun approached Electronic Reading Systems (ERS), long-time partner of Opticon, to see if there was a more efficient way of collecting and compiling the data needed. Being a non-commercial organisation, Parkrun were also keen to minimise their financial exposure too.



Solution

ERS developed a timing system using the Opticon OPN-2002 / 2006 portable data collector with built-in barcode scanner and 1MB memory. A custom application was developed for the OPN-2002 that allows each participant to have their completion time to be recorded, using a few simple button presses.



Implementation

The stored data can easily be downloaded by connecting the OPN-2002 / 2006 to the PC USB-port or using an empty slot in the multi-way cradle which is connected to the PC. Within a few seconds, the "Parkrun-timer-DL" (PC application, developed by ERS) will detect the connected device and proceed to download the stored data.



Result

The finishing positions are paired to the recorded finishing times in a spreadsheet. This information can be quickly and easily made available to the participants via email and through the parkrun website. It also forms the basis for several levels of statistical and performance analysis, keeping the runners' informed and motivated.

