

The MS9500 Voyager participates in the preparation of the 2002 Spanish Population Census

The National Statistic Institute (INE) has recently carried out the preparation of the 2002 population Census, aimed at updating a database of more than 40 million Spaniards. This process is undertaken every 10 years and for the current campaign the INE has invested more than €9 million in computer equipment and services.

During the last Census, undertaken in the early 90s, the data collected by the pollsters was entered by hand, by companies contracted for that specific purpose, with the results later centralised at the head office of the INE.

This process, of course, took a long time and it was tough work, since the questionnaire was completed by hand, which therefore made it very difficult to use any automatic data collection technology whilst extending the time taken to collate the final results of the survey to a whole year.

To speed up this process, the INE designed a new procedure which meant that the Census forms were delivered with the existing information about that particular person or inhabitants, already entered within the document. Later, an OCR based system introduced the data of that home and its inhabitants into the computer system. The barcode printed on the envelope, which contained the document, identified this information, quickly and accurately, avoiding manual data entry and thus reducing timescale of the operation and the level of errors.

The INE employed more than 40.000 pollsters to visit in excess of 12 million of homes to gather the information relating to the Census. The envelope had a Code 128 bar code that was read by one of the 1000 Metrologic Voyagers installed in the 475 regional offices of the INE, across Spain. These offices acted as local logistics centres and completed the data collection by the end of January 2002.

The Voyager® – both MS9520 and MS9540 with CodeGate® versions were the choice of the INE being the most cost – effective scanners submitted following the invitation to tender.

The Voyager 9520 is a very user-friendly hand held scanner. The laser is automatically activated when a barcode is presented to it and the data is immediately transmitted to the host system. Moreover, the Voyager 9540 CodeGate version allows the user to point and select a specific barcode and transmit its data by pressing the CodeGate button.

“As a result of the introduction of these high-performance scanners, there has been a remarkable advantage in terms of productivity” commented Pedro Solé Romeo, head of the Department of Systems and Communications of the INE, as we have been able to reduce this data entry process from one year to two months!”

“The selection of the Voyager was very easy. The advantages in terms of speed, accuracy and reliability of scanning are more significant when the volume of barcodes to be collected are high, such as in this case of a national census” added José María Tejedor, Sales Manager of Metrologic Eria Ibérica.

This is another example about how Metrologic can improve the productivity and effectiveness of any barcode collection application.



The MS9540 Voyager® single line hand-held/presentation bar code scanner offers CodeGate™ data transmission capability, allowing users to control when data is sent to the host system. In the stand, VoyagerCG is a completely automatic presentation scanner. Metrologic also offers the MS9520 Voyager®, which offers the same features as the MS9540, with the exception of CodeGate.



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