

**KEY FEATURES: Embedded, VB.NET, Touchscreen, Start-up Business**

In early 2009, Mintec was approached by a startup company with a product concept that required software to be developed for operation on a purpose built pc. The system (both hardware and software) is to be made available commercially to businesses and homes. An ongoing development plan for future versions of the product has been mapped out.

**The problem:** The company had plans for the provision of the hardware but needed a software company that appreciated the start-up nature of the venture as well as systems building competency, pragmatism and cost effectiveness. As part of its search the company identified candidate companies and undertook research and interviews. Mintec Systems was approached as part of the search for a software supplier.

**The resolution:** Mintec has prior experience with embedded systems and also with start up businesses and their particular needs.

Mintec analysed the requirements and suggested a number of functional enhancements to round out aspects of the system. These included the establishment of a central database for collecting, preparing and publishing data and screen flow improvements for usability. Mintec also used its knowledge of data interchange protocols to recommend an appropriate data transfer approach between the central system and in-field units.

Mintec recommended a project staging that enables the company to build the system in a cost effective manner. These stages include the use of prototypes, pre-release versions of the system and commercial releases. The emphasis being on minimizing re-work and maximizing the outcome for the IT spend in the early stages while ensuring future stages were not compromised.



**The outcome:**

- Mintec has developed the first prototype of the software.
- The system was built using VB.Net and operates on the client's touch screen PC under the Windows XP-embedded operating system and utilizes the Microsoft SQL Express database.
- The project was delivered on time and budget thus meeting a key requirement to not impact the overall product development schedule.