omninews

Come and see us at Euro Bus Expo

STAND T144 Technology Zone Euro Bus Expo

We are very excited to be able to show visitors to Euro Bus Expo exactly what our developers have been working on over recent months.

They have been focussing on making enhancements to our suite of software products to meet new needs. We have a number of new features to demonstrate, including increased flexibility within CrewPLAN with enhancements that offer the potential to solve large and complex scheduling problems faster and with greater ease.

Two of our key products are OmniTIMES and OmniMAP and we have developed a link between the two which allows users to extract mileage statistics for networks on a county by county basis.

Our developers have also completely re-designed our Bus Stop Asset Management module, OmniFLAG, which links with OmniMAP and provides a powerful tool for Local Authority clients.

The OmniDAS Driver Management System has also seen many innovations, such as internet or intranet based web enabled driver information (more on that elsewhere in OmniNEWS).

4-6 November 2014
NEC Birmingham, United Kingdom

EURO BUS expo 2014

It is important to us that clients keep up to date with what is happening with their existing products as well as looking at new ones, to ensure they are getting the most from what they already have.

Come and see us on **stand T144** in the Technology Zone to find out more.
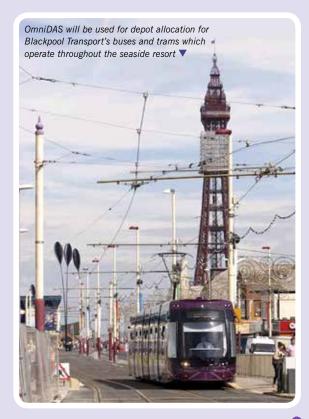
Peter & Carol Crichton

An illuminating experience

After a competitive tendering process, Blackpool Transport has awarded Omnibus with the contract to supply OmniDAS, to replace the company's in-house bespoke driver allocation system.

Blackpool Transport has been an Omnibus customer for many years. OmniDAS will be used for depot allocation for the company's buses and trams which operate throughout the seaside resort. One of the key features that Blackpool Transport will be using is the OmniDAS 'self-service' feature for drivers to access their details, view shifts in advance and submit requests for holidays and shift changes.

Bob Mason, Director for Blackpool Transport, commented: "Having worked with Omnibus for a number of years and having used the bus, crew and roster package we felt that Omnibus's allocation system OmniDAS was the perfect fit. Also, we have confidence in the support and assistance we will receive from Omnibus both in implementing the changes and also on an ongoing basis."

Omnibus now supplies the vast majority of municipal bus companies with passenger transport software.

OmniDAS will be used for depot allocation for Blackpool Transport's buses and trams which operate throughout the seaside resort ▼

Translink case study

"Translink is now using OmniDAS in a completely new way. The system has been adapted for them to record mileages and create monthly reports for Translink to claim the Fuel Duty Rebate (FDR)."

▲ *Translink is using OmniDAS to record mileages and create monthly reports to claim the Northern Ireland Fuel Duty Rebate*

Frank Clegg (MBE) and Simon Corrigan, Bus Operation Managers for Translink, are giving a talk in the Masterclass Theatre at Euro Bus Expo. The talk, at 10:45am on Wednesday 5th November, is titled 'Our journey from cut & paste schedules to a corporate data warehouse' and includes an insight into how Translink has used Omnibus software to make efficiency and cost savings across all areas of its operation.

The talk is immediately followed by the Euro Bus Expo Opening Address by Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin, Secretary of State for Transport.

Translink, the main provider of integrated public transport services in Northern Ireland, has used Omnibus software for many years. The company makes full use of OmniTIMES, OmniBASE, OmniMAP, OmniSTOP and OmniROTA, and has featured in OmniNEWS in the past.

The most recent addition to the company's software systems is the installation of OmniDAS to improve communications with drivers and increase efficiency.

Translink uses OmniDAS for all driver and vehicle management, including personnel management, time and attendance records, crew allocation and all driver information.

A key reason for installing OmniDAS was to maintain greater control over Translink's 2,000 drivers' working hours in line with legislation and the working time directive.

Translink is now using OmniDAS in a completely new way. The system has been adapted for them to record mileages and create monthly reports for Translink to claim the Fuel Duty Rebate (FDR). FDR is the bus grant paid by the Department for Regional Development in Northern Ireland.

Using OmniDAS allows inspectors to update their monthly reports automatically and Translink expects that it will cut down dramatically on administration.

▲ *trent barton will be among the first operators to use the new 'self-service' drivers' app in OmniDAS*

Buses, Trams and Mangoes

trent barton, the largest subsidiary of The Wellglade Group and an Omnibus customer of many years, is using the latest version of OmniDAS for depot allocation and will be among the first operators to use the new 'self-service' drivers' app.

The system will also be used for the first time by Nottingham Trams, which is a joint venture operation between Wellglade and Keolis in the city.

The Wellglade Group operates 400 buses across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and South Yorkshire, and the Nottingham Tram operation will expand from a single line with 15 trams to 3 lines needing 37 trams in 2015.

While cost saving was a key driving force, Mark Greasley, Group Projects Director for trent barton, explains that there is another key reason for adding OmniDAS to their scheduling software: "We really wanted to make improvements to our systems by reducing duplications and the need for any manual input. We wanted all our various systems to become truly integrated so that, for example, our bus stop displays and website contain the same automated information and we have removed the need for manual calculations across all operations."

Omnibus is working closely with Mark and his team on a particularly important project for the Group. Mark explains: "This year we have introduced average holiday pay and it's currently an intensive manual process, so our aim is to have the entire system automated by Christmas in time for those key holiday dates to be included."

As mentioned in the feature on OmniDAS on the back page of this issue, trent barton will be amongst the first operators to use the new 'self-service' drivers' module for them to access their details and submit requests for shift changes and holidays.

Omnibus was selected to provide the full range of scheduling software because of the flexibility of the systems, as Mark explains: "Omnibus is well regarded within the industry. Their developers truly understand how the market works and their systems are designed with us end users in mind. We have found other systems to be quite rigid and restrictive but the Omnibus systems are designed to be flexible and work the same way we do."

Omnibus is providing training for the new system, along with project management and technical consultancy.

Ever since Michael and Jeremy's charity bus trip from Land's End to John O'Groats (via Ipswich) we have wanted an excuse to publish a photo of Mr Mango. This article just about allows us that privilege! Mr Mango's 'day job' is a driver but he dons the Mango persona to promote trent barton's Mango card and attends charity fundraisers and other local events.

Kenyan school bus project

Omnibus is supporting the Harambee Schools Kenya charity which is raising funds to provide two vital school buses.

Since 1999 HSK has raised over £700,000 to build three brand new schools and renovate and maintain eight more. The charity has several key projects this year, including improving sanitation in schools and providing textbooks.

One of the charity's aims is to provide transport to allow Kenyan school children to attend the schools it works with in the country.

Some of the children have to walk miles to get to school. It is often dark and can be very dangerous for some of the younger children and girls to cross treacherous terrain with the threat of assault.

HSK are raising funds to buy two school buses to safely transport the most vulnerable and distant children to school.

HSK Trustee Amie Willenburg explains why these buses are so important: "By offering this transport it makes parents feel much more comfortable with sending their children off to school and makes the children

▲ *Some Kenyan children have to walk miles to get to school and the journey is often dangerous*

themselves feel much safer. It also guarantees their attendance and in turn their education for a better future."

Anyone interested in finding out more about HSK's work in Kenya can do so at www.hsk.org.uk

---

OmniDAS now offers drivers 'Self-service'

– ALSO NEW ENGINEERS MODULE –

Omnibus developers have been working hard to make sure the company's market-leading software systems continue to offer customers the features that they want and need.

OmniDAS, the company's market-leading driver and vehicle allocation system, has always been at the forefront of developments. Now, with the latest updates, OmniDAS gives drivers better access to key information.

With access to a company Intranet, drivers are now able to access personal information, such as holidays and payroll details, as well as view details regarding their shifts.

They will not only be able to view these

▲ *Self-service means drivers can access their details and even put in holiday requests*

details, but also communicate with their depot to request overtime, shift changes, holidays and rest days.

OmniDAS also now has a new automated module for engineers and all hourly paid employees, which allows users to set up timesheets for payroll in the same way as they do for drivers.

The system validates overtime against clock-in details and automatically communicates with the payroll system, and is compatible with clocking-in cards such as DesFire and MiFare.

trent barton and Ipswich Buses, both long-standing OmniDAS customers, will be the first to use the new engineers' module.

See page 3 of OmniNEWS for more details.

Contact

Omnibus
Hollinwood Business Centre
Albert Street, Hollinwood
Oldham, OL8 3QL
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)161 683 3100
www.omnibus.uk.com