Fleet and asset management

Transforming logistics with machine-to-machine communications

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Vodafone
Power to you
Keeping the world moving

M2M has already had a massive impact in the global transportation sector. It’s becoming a mainstay of transport operations where freight needs to be delivered rapidly and safely. It’s helping logistics companies manage global fleets to ensure that consignments arrive in optimum condition.

Taking tracking to the next level

Transport firms have been tracking ships, trains and trucks for years, using on-board computers and satellite uplinks. And with the advent of RFID tags and real-time location systems (RTLS), controllers gained the ability to track and monitor not just vehicles, but containers and other mobile assets, too.

M2M has taken tracking to a new and much more sophisticated level, creating new possibilities for companies wishing to track freight and vehicles. Using M2M data gathered and transmitted in real-time or near real-time, companies can manage vehicles and their drivers, optimise route planning, and manage mobile workforces. The results can be dramatic, with improvements in customer service, operational costs, process efficiency, carbon footprint, and safety.

Berg Insight estimates that in Europe alone, 6.4 million fleet management systems will be operational by 2017. With more than 35 million commercial vehicles on EU roads that could be M2M-enabled, let alone shipping and rail freight, the potential market is enormous.

Smarter transport

Intelligent transport systems (ITS) promise to optimise the routing of vehicles and their cargo, taking into account a wide range of factors.

Route optimisation is not just about avoiding traffic jams that can hold up vehicles: it considers road blockages and height/width restrictions that cause unexpected problems; gradients, turns and distances that affect fuel consumption; tariffs such as toll routes and customs charges; and the availability of fuelling stops to minimise downtime. It plans journeys to maximise backhaul opportunities and streamline multi-drop routes. It factors in appropriate rest stops for drivers and crew, in order to maintain safety and compliance.

By considering all of these factors, ITS can give drivers the optimum route: one that is not just quickest, but most economical, safest, and that best utilises available driver and vehicle resources.

Intelligent transport systems use M2M sensors on the road and in the vehicle to feedback crucial information that can influence, on a minute-by-minute basis, the viability of a given route, keeping companies on track and within budgets and international transport regulations.
Ctrack/Digicore delivers multi-country fleet

Ctrack/Digicore is one of the top five providers of ‘track and trace’ systems. It has operations in South America, Asia, Africa, Australia and more than 12 European countries. In the Netherlands alone, its customers have over 9,000 operational units, and it's growing rapidly as more companies realise the benefits of tracking their vehicles.

Vodafone provides M2M connectivity over its GPRS network, delivering a reliable and cost-effective service, 24x7. Ctrack/Digicore is able to manage and activate its SIMs across many countries from its European headquarters, and remotely upgrade devices already in the field.

Vodafone’s international capabilities also extend to commercial arrangements, making management easier for Ctrack/Digicore. The companies are working closely together to unify pricing for roaming across Europe, simplifying contracts and allowing Ctrack/Digicore to improve its commercial offerings.

Ctrack/Digicore has benefited from Vodafone’s excellent technical and ordering support and our consultative approach.

Why Vodafone

Our M2M services are ideally suited to the far-reaching operations of transport and logistics companies.

• We offer an optimised roaming model for international fleet management, with fast time to market for multinational rollouts, and a single point of contact no matter how big your deployment.

• Vodafone has a dedicated team of more than 100 M2M specialists around the world, ready to help you with everything from testing hardware to developing M2M-based commercial offers to your own customers.

• Our dedicated Global M2M Service Platform is optimised for large-scale multicountry deployments. It provides a central point of self-service control for all data connections and tariff options.

• We have developed an ultra-compact, robust, corrosion-resistant solderable SIM chip, which is ideal for use in vehicles where it may face extremes of temperature and vibration.

• Our M2M services include automated SIM activation, bespoke roaming and subscription profiles customised for specific usage.

Want proof of our experience? Don’t just take our word for it. We’ve been highly rated by leading analysts such as Current Analysis and Machina Research.

Visit m2m.vodafone.com/why_vodafone/to find out more.

For more information on Vodafone M2M services for fleet and asset management, contact your Vodafone account manager, email m2m@vodafone.com, or visit m2m.vodafone.com.