

A Mobitex Success Story - Public Transport

Bus Fleet Solutions

Security and information in Paris bus system

The bus passengers in Paris, France receive accurate and timely information about when the next bus is due. The buses have electronic signs onboard informing passengers about upcoming stops or delays. Furthermore the bus drivers have real-time information, not just about their own bus, but connecting buses on the line and they can send instant alarms to traffic control in case of delay, breakdown, accident or robbery attempt.

These are all real life examples of wireless data communication and access that Mobitex makes possible today. Many public transport companies have already implemented wireless communication in their business with impressive results. When will your business join in and help to shape the new wireless world?

The Challenge

In Paris, RATP (Regie Autonome des Transports Parisiens) conducts regular surveys of how bus passengers perceive service. These surveys show that passengers understand that a bus may be delayed

Paris bus passengers appreciate real time and reliable information which was not the case before

but they want to know how long the delay is so that they may choose an alternate route and do not have to wait at a bus stop. The surveys also show that passengers are concerned about safety on the bus.

Against this background, RATP decided to use Mobitex and two applications called Aigle and Altair to improve security and provide more information to their passengers and bus drivers.

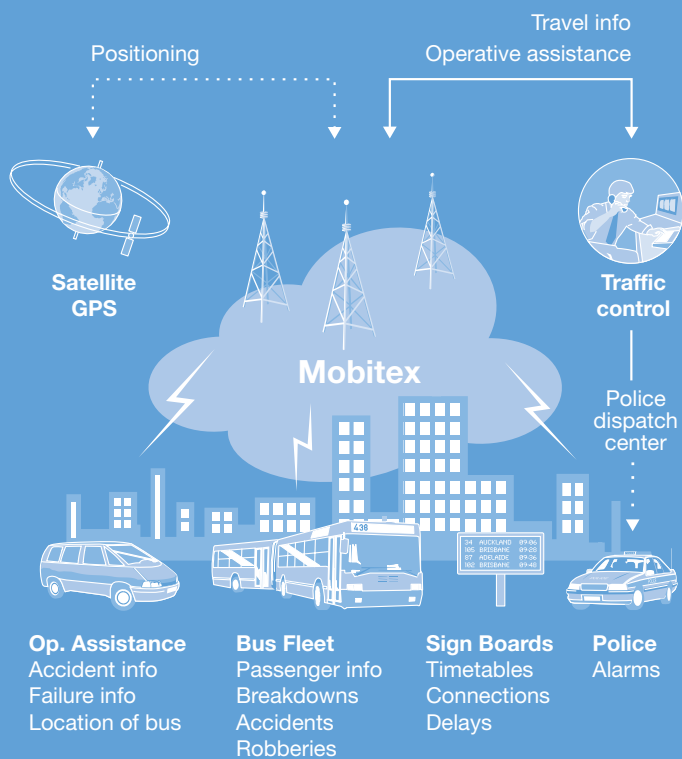


The Solution

The RATP bus system consists of wireless communication via Mobitex using a security and an information application, both using GPS (Global Positioning System). In addition to 60 bus routes, the Mobitex system serves two street car lines.

The security system is currently installed in all of RATP's more than 4,000 buses. The application enables bus drivers to send out an alarm that indicates where the bus is located and what has happened. This information reaches the dispatcher immediately. Since the system also includes RATP's maintenance vehicles, traffic controllers can immediately dispatch help to an accident scene.

The information application consists of two parts, one for information to passengers and one for operative assistance. The latter component enables traffic controllers to obtain such information from the bus drivers that allow them to control bus traffic in an optimal manner. Bus passengers receive information both inside the bus and at bus stops. During the bus ride, the information includes the name of the next stop, as well as the connect-



ing times for major connection points. This information is updated every 60 seconds. In the first phase more than 2,000 buses was equipped with this information system. The second phase will provide all 4,000 buses and 5,000 bus stops with the same system.

The Benefits

Improved customer service and driver security

Reliable passenger information - in real time on buses and at bus stops

Enhanced security - as bus drivers send alerts about breakdowns or accidents to traffic controllers for immediate dispatch of assistance

Decrease in downtime - instant alarms to traffic control enables faster dispatch of maintenance crews

Improved traffic flow - early warnings to traffic controllers allowing them to control bus traffic in an optimal manner

More efficient use of resources through remote information handling and faster dispatch.

All in all a very successful implementation of Mobitex

Why Mobitex?

The network in Paris is an excellent example of how Mobitex can be used for custom applications in a private network. A bus application allows the transport company to improve service and security, while utilizing resources more efficiently. There is demand and interest among many local transport companies, since many large cities have major traffic problems.

"Mobitex is a robust and very reliable system designed for packet data. It is well suited to our requirements and should be an attractive alternative for other bus companies as well," says Peter Gavigan, telecom engineer at RATP.

Facts about Mobitex

Mobitex is a leading international open standard for dedicated wireless data for public transport organizations and other professional users. Mobitex offers immediately useable solutions and services on powerful yet tiny handheld devices that delivers real value to users.

Mobitex has a number of key advantages. It provides a highly secure environment, fast data delivery in seconds, the highest level of reliability, the longest battery life in the wireless industry, true always-on and push functionality and extensive seamless coverage.

Mobitex continues to expand around the world. Now, there are more than 30 public and private net-

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works providing coverage on six continents. Over the past three years, Mobitex has gained more users than any other dedicated wireless data service in the world with more than doubled subscriber base and a quadrupled increase in data traffic.

This success story is intended to provide inspiration and to give you an idea of how innovative services and solutions are enabled by Mobitex.