June 2012

Telematics Wire

Monthly News Magazine

■ Vehicle Tracking ■ Fleet Management ■ Navigation Technologies

EDITORIAL

When discussing about automotive telematics and the collaborations, a look around the industry vertical is worth the effort in learning the latest automotive telematics advancements and partnerships. The automotive telematics industry is scaling new heights with every new launch across the world. Today most of OEM's across the world are able to introduce the best practices in automotive telematics largely owing to business collaborations.

Last year in August 2011, world's two leading OEM's Toyota and Ford inked a MOU on the product development collaboration under which both the companies had plans of developing next-generation standards for in-car telematics and Internet-based services. Toyota has made impressive investments in telematics through applications like the G-BOOK, G-Link. In the U.S., the company has introduced the accessible, easy-to-use Entune. On the other hand, Ford has also made its mark by introducing SYNC infotainment system developed by Microsoft.

In a recent development, Toyota Motor Corp. and Microsoft Corp. have teamed up to deploy a next-generation telematics software platform. Toyota's telematics applications will run on Microsoft's Windows Azure platform.

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Herve Beaudet
CEO, Lumiplan

"The Indian Government is very motivated to promote the solution, we still need some support from Government to push a global solution

Difficulty with global companies such as ours is that we offer the technical analysis in tenders in Asia for ITS and the benefit are given to the lowest bidder. This is a problem for all global companies trying to establish in Asia."

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TAPA India Regional Seminar 2012

One day seminar on 'Opportunities and Challenges in Supply Chain and Transportation Security in India' was organized on 24th May 2012 at The Leela Kempinski, Gurgaon by TAPA Asia and its India chapter Telematics Wire.

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Intel to enhance car driving experience in India

Hyderabad: Intel Corporation is in discussions with Indian car makers to launch a new 'in-vehicle infotainment' (IVI) system in passenger cars.
B Suryanarayanan, Director, Sales (South), Intel South Asia, stated the dual display system of the IVI will comprise two screens on the dashboard; for driver and the passengers. While the car driver will have the access to the screen for navigational or driving information, passengers can download movies, songs, etc. separately. According to Intel, the touch screen on the dashboard interfaces is integrated with the driver information system (DIS) navigation. This enables the driver to take advantage of state-of-the-art functions and services such as voice recognition, smartphone remote start, stolen vehicle location tracking as well as access to the Internet.

GPS based vehicle tracking for GHMS

Hyderabad: Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), the civic body has decided to install GPS devices in its vehicles. The decision has been taken by the civic body after receiving complaints that several workers and staff members are pilfering diesel from the GHMC's vehicles. Officials said they had received complaints that some workers were not making scheduled trips to the garbage transfer stations and the dumping yard.

Maruti Suzuki deploys Trimble trako Visual Cargo solution in its logistics fleet

Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) has inked partnership with Trimble for deploying the Trimble trako Visual Cargo solution in MSIL outbound logistics trucks that transport new cars from the factory to Maruti Suzuki dealers across India. As part of the implementation, Trimble configured a Consignment Tracking module for use by Maruti Suzuki and a Fleet Management module for use by Maruti Suzuki's transport vendors. The Consignment module, 'Visual Cargo', comprises advanced dashboard and report features that allow logistics managers to easily monitor, track and manage operations.

Garmin targets affordable market section in India with nüvi 40LM and 50LM

New Delhi: Garmin Corporation, a unit of Garmin Ltd., has unveiled nüvi 40LM and 50LM devices for Indian mass market. The devices will be priced at Rs 8450 (nüvi 40LM) and Rs 9990 for (nüvi 50LM). With the new launch, Garmin is making sure that people with limited use of GPS features should also enjoy the advantages of technology. Meanwhile, Garmin announced its new India office opening in Jasola, New Delhi. Some of the unique features are Junction View which helps drivers avoid last minute maneuvers, Lane Info guiding to the proper lane for navigation, Highway Mode telling you approaching exist on highway, Text-to-speech speaking street names in Indian English, Voice Guidance available both in Hindi and English, House Search for easier search and Go To Office/ Go Home with a simple click. The devices will come with free maps of Singapore and Malaysia, two of the most visited places by Indian vacationers.

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In an interview with Telematics Wire, Herve Beaudet, CEO, Lumiplan, talks about challenges faced by the company in the Indian market and growth plans of Lumiplan in the coming years.

Q. Can you briefly tell the readers of Telematics Wire about Lumiplan?

LUMIPLAN is French Company with global presence and expertise in Intelligent Transport Solutions for public transportation. In 2010, Lumiplan opened its Indian office in Bangalore - LUMIPLAN ITS India Private Limited. LUMIPLAN has 40 years of experience and worldwide reference from around 60 public transport corporations in planning/scheduling solution for Bus Route Management, Passenger Information Systems and Fleet Management System, etc.

Q. How do you see the opportunities unfolding in the Indian market?

Huge opportunity in fact! Thanks to the government willingness to improve the public transport and profitability of public operators with schemes like JNNURM. It is a brilliant effort by government to support commuter Convenience.

Q. Which product and services has been introduced in the Indian market by Lumiplan?

Mainly we promote a software solution for planning /scheduling Bus Route Management which is basic solution for any bus network operator internationally, even before the Fleet Management itself. This solution has a huge benefit and potential, to recognize the flaws in current planning and optimize and re-optimize the planning to save various costs for the bus operators. Moreover this solution ideally is the first milestone of all ITS Projects internationally. On the hardware side, we are also proposing LED NBSD (Next Bus Stop Display System) solution and On-Ground PIS solutions, 100% compliant with JNNURM specification.

Q. During the last couple of years of operation here in India, how has been your experience with the market?

Difficult and complex, mainly due to the fact that ITS technologies are quiet new in India and we are facing companies which propose to develop a solution from scratch without public transport knowledge and experience. The added value of a company like Lumiplan is our knowledge and expertise as well as our capacity of adaptation to Indian specificity in public transport. The L1 policy is not in our advantage, moreover the timing planning for execution of projects is most of the time not realistic.

Q. Besides the passenger information system, are you also looking at the opportunities in intelligent transportation systems in India?

We provide end to end solutions and services from HW to SW for Intelligent Transport requirements in India. Our focus is on public transportation - Bus/BRT/Metro Rail.

Q. How can Lumiplan help cities in India improve mobility through ITS implementation?

Thanks to our solution ... (smile) of course. We need to educate our clients and explain the difference between FTS (Fleet Tracking System) dedicated to commercial fleet used by DHL, SHELL and FMS used by Bus operators who need largely more feature like ETA, frequency analysis, deviation, alarm, real time regulation, etc. This will lead to a better implementation of ITS particularly in Multi-Model transportation context and benefit the commuters ultimately.

The L1 policy is not in our advantage, moreover the timing planning for execution of projects is most of the time not realistic.

Q. How has been the response to your transport and urban solutions from the Indian market?

Today our HW solution is adapted to Indian market. We hope that we get some good news soon for systems like planning/scheduling or FMS. It will take some time to find a way in Indian market for this solution. Another difficulty with global companies such as ours is that we offer the technical analysis in tenders in Asia for ITS and the benefit are given to the lowest bidder. This is a problem for all global companies trying to establish in Asia.

Q. What according to you is required as an initiative from the Indian government to capitalize on the opportunity being presented with the new solutions in the PIS, telematics, ITS etc.?

The Indian Government is very motivated to promote the solution, we still need some support from Government to push a global solution, including planning/scheduling and improve today's basic FTS feature to go to Fleet Management which will be more appropriate and useful to bus public transport needs. Another issue at local level is the capacity to analyze the offers from technical point of view. May be the Indian Government could put in place a standard grid of evaluation e.g. a centralized committee of individuals with good previous international experience in ITS Projects, in order to support the local evaluation of the tender and to be sure that all proposal are compliant with Government requirement and for evaluation of the best proposal.

Survey highlights the loopholes in the traditional fleet management methods

USA: Global Industry Analysts, Inc. (GIA), has released a report on commercial vehicle telematics market. The report suggests that global market for commercial vehicle telematics is projected to reach US$17.3 billion by the year 2017. As per the report, growth will be primarily driven by rebounding sales of commercial vehicles, development of infrastructure designed to support vehicle telematics, and application expansion to include navigation, provision of real-time traffic information, travel information, content & LBS information, in addition to the conventional fleet operation, and vehicle tracking applications.

Telematic Insurance market to cross £50 Billion globally by 2020

Belgium: The latest report released on Insurance Telematics by Ptolemus Consulting Group forecasts that telematic-enabled policies will generate £50 billion in premiums to insurers by 2020. The report suggests that with over 2 million customers, the Pay As You Drive (PAYD) market has reached its tipping point. It is expected to be multiplied by 50 by the end of the decade and said result is seen as good news for consumers worldwide. Low mileage- and safe drivers will stop subsidizing fraudsters, road warriors and dangerous drivers and will save up to 50% on their car insurance premiums.

ABI Research: Alternative Location Market to touch $8 billion

London: The report "Alternative Positioning Technologies", by ABI research forecasts that the alternative location market will touch $8 billion by 2017. Even though the precision indoor location is grabbing limelight, yet the arena of wide-area alternative/hybrid location is generating better revenues. As per the report, GPS, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and cellular location technologies will each be installed on over one billion devices in 2017, resulting in the generation of forecasted revenues.

Patrick Connolly, senior analyst, ABI Research says, "Increasingly, tablet, camera, and portable gaming vendors are using location to differentiate and support additional services and revenue models. Others, like the femtocell market, are driven by mandates. To illustrate the potential, the non-cellular handset market is set to reach over one billion devices by 2017."

Intelligent vehicles to generate revenues of over $14.4 billion by 2016: Juniper Research

USA: Juniper Research forecasts that intelligent vehicles, through embedded connectivity, will be directly responsible for generating revenues of $14.4 billion by 2016. According to the report" Telematics & Smart Vehicles: Infotainment & Commercial Uses, Insurance & Vehicle Recovery 2012-2016", the revenue growth will be complemented by the expansion of geographical markets and service models by existing telematics in the next five years. Juniper Research has observed an increasing level of sophistication in the commercial telematics market as the fleet managers are using telematics to increase fleet efficiency, complying with regulation and monitoring driver behaviour. Companies are also leveraging the power of the cloud and internet portals to enhance the service they offer.

The report further adds that by 2016 there will be 92 million internet-connected vehicles on the road, featuring technology to integrate the smartphone into the head-unit. The commercial telematics is seeing sustained take-up, driven by its promise of increasing driver efficiency and managing costs.

OEM connected car system shipments to cross 39 million by 2016: ABI Research

USA: The research "Connected Car Research Service", by ABI Research forecasts that OEM connected car system shipments will grow from 8.22 million in 2012 to 39.5 million by 2016. While the United States and Western Europe remain the frontrunners, car OEMs such as GM, Toyota, Nissan, Hyundai, and Mercedes Benz are expecting China to be the next major expansion area for unveiling connected car solutions in order to maintain or enhance their competitive position in this growing market. While connected automotive infotainment continues to grab the limelight, traditional safety and security functionality remains important from an OEM perspective, due to either historical reasons (US GM OnStar) or driven by mandates such as eCall in Europe, ERA-GLONASS emergency calling in Russia, and the Contran stolen vehicle legislation in Brazil.

ASIM Industries signs five year contract with A2Z

Kanpur: ASIM Industries has partnered up with A2Z for a 5 year agreement; under the agreement Atraker from ASIM industries will be deployed in the vehicles of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) fleet management for Kanpur city and it will provide Atraker comprehensive solutions on lease / rent for all units. Nearly all the 100 vehicles are fitted with Atraker and 30 compactors are fitted with VTS and camera to capture the images of loaded (garbage) and empty bins with geo tagged images.

RSRTC buses to be equipped with GPS

Rajasthan: The Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC) has decide to equip the roadways buses with GPS devices for providing enhanced services to the common public and administering travel in a very efficient manner. As part of the plan, RSRTC has decided to equip all bus stands will have LCD screens displaying the position of the scheduled buses and complete time-table in real time.

As a first step towards the project plan, two LCD screens have already been installed at the Udaipole bus stand last week; however, the system will get fully functional after a few days.

TAPA India Regional Seminar 2012

One day seminar on 'Opportunities and Challenges in Supply Chain and Transportation Security in India' was organized on 24th May 2012 at The Leela Kempinski, Gurgaon by TAPA Asia and its India chapter Telematics Wire. The seminar drew applause and support from all stakeholders for its effort to come forward and creating a platform for addressing issues pertaining to logistics and supply chain security in India. The speakers and the delegates comprising government/public, private industry and user communities commended organizers for providing the opportunity to discuss, deliberate and share the real challenges, and best practice. The seminar had sessions on security services, telematics, risk assessment and future trends, where professionals from the industry mentioned about the issues related to the supply chain & transportation industry and also mentioned about the offerings and the solutions available.

In the inaugural talk Bhabajit Nandi, Chairman, TAPA India (Transported Asset Protection Association) extended a warm welcome to all the participants of 'TAPA India Regional Seminar 2012', and read out the message from Jason Teo, Chairman TAPA Asia.

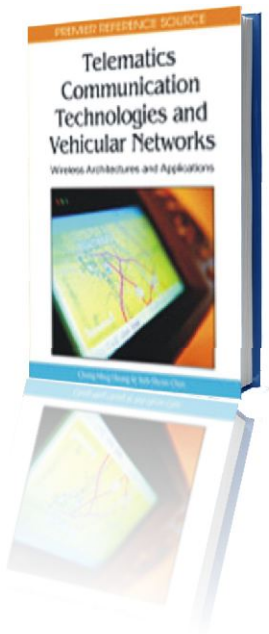
Bhabajit Nandi, Chairman TAPA India, giving welcome address

During the inaugural session, delivering the keynote address, Sanjiv Edward from Delhi International Airport (P) Ltd gave an overview of logistics hub and discussed about measures from securing the cargo business. In the session 'Security Systems' speakers focused on the significance of security in supply chain. Jayant Guha from Tyco Security spoke about usage of technology aid during fire & security related incidents. P K Kurian from Topsgrup discussed about the opportunities in private security industry. VGS Mani from Nokia spoke about warehouse security design. Vipan Jain from Lufthansa Cargo AG ended the session with the topic security system covering up "Current scenario at the airports and expectation in time to come". Ravindran Natarajan from Trimble joined the discussion in the session 'Vehicle Telematics and Future Trends-I', spoke about how to create 360 degree value for transport eco-system.

Anuj Juneja from ITG Telematics discussed about the usage of GPS tracking for logistics companies and his colleague Gaurav Dalal talked about the way forward to select the vehicle tracking system. Bhabajit Nandi, Chairman, TAPA India advised the industry leaders to make special efforts to fight against supply chain crimes and mentioned about how TAPA has made contributions in India. Sivasubramaniam Balasubramonium from DNV during the session 'Risk Assessment' mentioned the benefits and scope of enterprise risk management. Ramesh Kumar from Supply Chain India spoke about the safety on Indian Highways. Maj Abhimanyu Singh from MITKAT discussed about 3 step principal for supply chain security.In the last session on 'Future Trends', Maj Gen B S Ghotra (Retd) from SKSDC gave introduction to national occupational standards on transport and logistics industry. Vidhur Kohli from Continuity and Resilience discussed upon business continuity and crisis management planning for the supply chain.

On behalf of TAPA Asia, Bhabajit Nandi, presented mementos to all the sponsors and speakers of the conference and acknowledged their presence. He also thanked the attendees for making the seminar a success.

Book on Telematics



Book: Telematics Communication Technologies and Vehicular Networks: Wireless Architectures and Applications

Author: Chung-ming Huang is a distinguished Professor of Dept. of Computer Science and Information Engineering, National Cheng Kung University (Taiwan, R.O.C.) He also serves as Director of the Promotion Center for the Telematics Consortium (PCTC), Ministry of Education (MOE), Taiwan, R.O.C. and also holds the post of Principal Project Reviewer of Industrial Development Bureau and Department of Industrial Technology, Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), Taiwan, R.O.C.

Editor: Yao-chung Chang

Description: The book examines critical issues involved with telematics such as vehicular network infrastructure, vehicular network communication protocols, and vehicular services and applications. A defining collection of latest findings and cutting-edge solutions, this reference publication provides useful techniques, tools, and assessments for those involved with computer science, computer engineering, and management information systems.

New Launch

Smart Access

USA: Clarion has introduced "Smart Access" Cloud Telematics Service aiming to offer a more comfortable, safe and convenient driving environment for drivers. The service will be launched in June in North America and Japan, and will be implemented globally in stages. The company plans to introduce new products that are compatible with "Smart Access." With this future vision for the global market in mind, Clarion is aiming to increase its in-car information business, and will provide telematics services in order to contribute to society through car manufacturer OEM devices and after-market products. The company will be taking its first steps in that direction with "Smart Access," which was developed in close cooperation with Hitachi Group.

As Cloud Telematics continue to power vehicle technology trends, it is placing a high degree of wireless capability into the hands of drivers. In-vehicle connectivity is emerging as a first priority for both consumers and fleet owners. In cloud telematics, the Cloud hides the physical connection and creates a virtual environment where a given vehicle can be integrated with, just like any other real interaction. Cloud-based telematics resolves the traditional telematics hassles and makes driving an enriching experience for the drivers. It can soon be expected that future technologies will enable the drivers to perform functions such as unlocking vehicle doors with the simple touch of a button on their smart phones, and syncing their home, car and mobile music into a single, transferrable file via the cloud telematics.

Nintendo DS-controlled vehicle navigation system

Japan: Toyota has partnered up with Nintendo to turn the Nintendo DS into navigational remote control that enables users to set destinations, map out routes, and even get sightseeing information. Nintendo DS as remote control works with Toyota's new Smart Navi system, using a DS cartridge that can connect to the system via Bluetooth. Dubbed as Kuruma de DS, the system enables passengers to check on the vehicle's speed, take quizzes and even pipe the DS's sound through the speakers of the car and passengers can also save places on the Nintendo DS as well. The Nintendo DS is expected to launch on June 1st in Japan.

Blue Link mobile application

USA: Hyundai Motor America has introduced an all-new mobile application which allows subscribers to remotely access various Blue Link features and services through compatible mobile devices. Completely redesigned from the ground up, the app has been significantly enhanced from the previous version and boasts a new user experience, faster navigation and innovative new features. Google Android and Apple iOS users can download the app today from Google Play or Apple iTunes, respectively. A Blackberry version is also in development.

RIM blackberry apps powered by TomTom HD Traffic

USA: TomTom announced that Research In Motion (RIM) is using TomTom's real-time traffic services for BlackBerry applications. BlackBerry Traffic is equipped by TomTom HD Traffic, giving customers access to the accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date traffic information on the market. Additionally, TomTom maps and location content is used in BlackBerry Maps, and for BlackBerry Locate Services, which gives 3rd party software developers access to the mapping and traffic information for their own apps.

BMW to increase its focus on telematics

USA: BMW has planned to engage itself more into information and communication technologies for vehicles and it has decided to further its partnerships with EURECOM. Together, the partners are focussed at two new approaches for vehicle communications, including vehicle-to-X technology. The vehicle-to-X technology is Proton-Plata and Evita.

PROTON-PLATA, "programmable telematics onboard radio", is based on software-defined radio and allows for an exchange of wireless radio standards using dynamic software updates.

With a host of new radio standards for digital broadcasting and mobile telecommunications, BMW hopes that PROTON-PLATA will reduce the number of control units and variants needed for vehicle architecture and allow for new wireless radio standards and services to reach the market faster. EVITA, "E-Safety Vehicle Intrusion Protected Applications", allows for the exchange of information inside the vehicle; between vehicles; and between vehicles and the infrastructure.

It allows for safe and reliable information exchange, including car-to-X communication, and focuses on securing the communication between each vehicle's electronic control units to ensure that car-to-X information can be trusted by the receivers.

Novatel Wireless and NexTraq teams up to offer fleet management solution

USA: Novatel Wireless and NexTraq have signed a supply agreement for mobile tracking devices. As per the agreement, Novatel Wireless will supply its MT 3000 device for NexTraq's GPS fleet tracking solution. The MT 3000 is part of the Enfora Mobile Tracking portfolio. The MT 3000 features include GPS location, ignition, geo-fencing, trip reporting and events. It also has built-in threshold events to gather metrics crucial to effective fleet and insurance monitoring like excessive engine speed, rapid acceleration, harsh braking, speed violations, and excessive idling.

Navman Wireless ropes in CalAmp as new OEM hardware partner

USA: CalAmp Corp. has signed a five-year supply agreement with Navman Wireless as new OEM hardware partner. Under the agreement, CalAmp will provide at least $25 million of fleet tracking products to Navman Wireless. CalAmp will oversee the design and manufacturing of Navman Wireless' GPS tracking and communications devices and thereby help ensure ongoing hardware innovation for fleet managers who use the company's OnlineAVL2 software/hardware platform to optimize operations. As a part of the transaction, CalAmp has acquired certain products and technologies from Navman Wireless which includes technology for Mobile Display Terminals (MDT) and an MDT product line currently marketed to telematics OEMs globally.

Trimble to equip the UK defense vehicles

UK: Trimble has signed a four year agreement with Babcock, which provides and manages the fleet of administrative vehicles for the UK Ministry of Defense (MoD). Under the agreement, Babcock will use Trimble's field service management solutions to equip the MoD to more efficiently manage its fleet utilization, fuel consumption and driver safety.

Trimble GeoManager will offer Babcock and the MoD with real-time visibility into the day-to-day fleet operations, which will enable them to identify, manage and improve key areas such as vehicle utilization, maintenance planning and customer service to optimize the overall cost of transport by reducing fleet size, spot hire spend, fuel costs and CO2 emissions. Babcock will be implementing Trimble Driver Safety to enable the MoD to review driving behavior across its fleet.

The Trimble GeoManager Fleet Management solution will be deployed across 12,000 of the MoD's cars, light commercial vehicles and heavy goods vehicles (HGV).

Remote Diagnostics from Volvo

USA: Volvo Trucks in conjunction with the Volvo Ocean Race has announced the launch of its Remote Diagnostics aftermarket service for North America. The service is designed to provide "a seamless, dynamically connected system of vehicle management tools to help maximize vehicle uptime." Remote Diagnostics will be standard on all Volvo-powered VN model highway trucks. Remote Diagnostics also provides service case communication and documentation among Volvo Action Service, dealers and customers through ASIST, Volvo's web-based service management tool, which comes free of charge for two years with the purchase of all new Volvo trucks.

Driview

Japan: Fujitsu Ten commenced the App Store launch of the free iPhone application "Driview" that works with 'ECLIPSE' car navigation systems 'AVN-ZX02i' and 'AVN-ZO2i.' Via connecting to a Fujitsu Ten car navigation system, this application can superimpose route information such as destination direction and turns on top of live-action images shot with the iPhone camera on the car navigation display, and thereby provide more user friendly guidance to the destination. The application can be downloaded and used just by connecting the iPhone to the car navigation system using a 'KW-1207' or 'IPC111' cord.

T5 GNSS handheld data collector

Canada: Nexteq Navigation has launched T5 its new flagship multifunctional GNSS handheld data collector. The device is a high-accuracy GPS unit capable of 2-centimeter accuracy using real-time kinematic (RTK) and 50-centimeters globally using Nexteq's i-PPP technology. With the T5A, users can achieve accurate and consistent results anywhere in the world with no loss in flexibility; Nexteq informed that the unit's centimeter-level precision coupled with versatility allows for accurate data collection in the most diverse weather conditions.

Suitable for projects in all-environments, the T5A has a professional quality internal GPS receiver that provides accurate real-time results. Using Nexteq's Freedom, i-PPP, or RTK technologies, the T5A data collector can provide flexible and accurate positioning in all parts of the world

GSS6300M

UK: Spirent Communications has unveiled GSS6300M Multi-GNSS simulator designed for integration, verification and production testing where a quick and accurate functional test is required. The platform supports simulation of signals from individual or combined GPS/SBAS, GLONASS and Galileo constellations, with eight satellites per constellation.

The GSS6300M supports two modes of operation integrated into an Automated Test Equipment (ATE) environment or using Spirent's powerful SimCHAN software. For automated operation, the GSS6300M can be synchronised with other equipment and controlled remotely over Ethernet, IEEE-488 (GPIB) or RS232 interfaces.

GPS 19x" GPS antennas

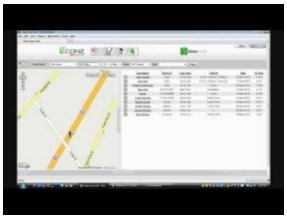
USA: Garmin has launched two new GPS antennas the GPS 19x HVS and GPS 19x NMEA 2000. These GPS receivers provide users with up to 10Hz update rates for position, velocity and time data. They offer high-sensitivity reception and enhanced GPS accuracy to the Garmin family of marine instruments, autopilots and MFDs.

The GPS 19x antennas are 32-channel receivers and are capable of tracking multiple GNSS, including GPS and GLONASS. Since more satellites are visible, they can provide more accurate fixes in challenging conditions. With an enhanced position, heading and speed accuracy delivered up to ten times more than other receivers; they provide consistent and smooth drawing of your position on the plotter/MFD at low and high speeds.

ComTracNVG "Pro"

USA: EasyTracGPS has launched ComTracNVG "Pro" a tracking solution. Through EasyTracGPS' ComTrac Total Tracking Solution, the ComTracNVG "Pro" provides live 5 or 10 second GPS tracking position updates, reports and alerts. When integrated with any Garmin Nuvi 255, 265, and 465 Series device, the ComTracNVG "Pro" system also includes enhanced turn-by-turn voice navigation, interactive dispatching and routing, and 2-way one-touch communication capabilities.

Timecard GPS Lite



UK: Econz Wireless has unveiled "Timecard GPS Lite" a mobile GPS tracking application capable of being used for tracking employees and assets. Timecard GPS lite can be enabled in Apple iPhone, Standard Cell Phones, BlackBerry, Nokia, Android, Tablets and Sonim. Timecard GPS Lite is apt for satellite as well as terrestrial mapping.

OEM's and their telematics collaborations

Continued from page 1

When talking about the Indian scenario, telematics is in process of being absorbed by the OEM segment. Indian OEMs, prefer to keep telematics project developments under wrap and prefers to be tightlipped about their respective future telematics plans. However, some telematics collaborations have been announced by Indian OEM'S. In the said context, Indian OEM giant TATA Motors is actively involved in telematics development. In 2007, the company launched TRAKIT, a vehicle-tracking telematic device for Indian truck drivers and fleet owners; it was launched by the company as original equipment on the Tata Novus series of vehicles. In 2010, Trimble acquired Tata AutoComp Mobility Telematics (TMT) to expand its access to the India market.

Recently, TATA Motor's made an announcement to actively engage itself more into telematics and we saw that coming as HARMAN signed a strategic multi-year relationship to develop and supply branded audio and infotainment solutions for TATA Motors. TATA's collaborations with other brands in order to take the telematics road ahead in India does make the user segment curious Two other major contenders in the field of telematics Indian market are Mahindra and Ashok Leyland. Mahindra has developed MZone - a Mobile Resource Management platform for logistics companies and fleet operators. Mahindra Engineering has partnered with Mahindra Telematics to bring out innovative products, solutions and services. While Mahindra Engineering designs & develops the systems, Mahindra Telematics manufactures and supports the products. They are providing telematics solution to corporate sector like Airline, BPO, Construction companies, Schools, Transport companies, RAM, Logistics companies. The telematics client list of Mahindra includes Jet Airways, Ultratech Cement, etc.

Ashok Leyland has kept a low profile in the telematics market. In 2011, Ashok Leyland and Cisco signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under which the companies intended to develop sector-specific solutions that help enable Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I) communication. The first solution from this collaboration was the iBUS2 - part of the iBUS series from Ashok Leyland that integrates relevant technologies with mobility solutions. Currently, the company is offering its telematics solution 'Alert' through distribution partners as well as directly to state transport undertakings and fleet owners. The company has so far installed its solution Alert, a fleet management solution including passenger information system (PIS), on about 800 buses of Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) of Tamil Nadu.

Indian OEM's are not only focusing towards enriching the driving experience, however they are banking on the benefits of telematics in logistics as well. As a step towards streamlining its logistics operations, Maruti Suzuki has teamed up with Trimble for deploying latter's Trako Visual Cargo in outbound logistics trucks that transport new cars from the factory to Maruti Suzuki dealers across India. Recently Intel Corporation has announced its plan to team up with Indian can makers for launching Intel driven IVI systems in passenger cars.

No matter how many telematics collaborations OEM's declare, the bottom line remains that the collaboration remains limited to standards and technologies, and the widespreqd acceptability of the vehicle telematics standard is still at some distance.

Akshara Narendran

News

Verizon to take over Hughes Telematics

USA: Verizon Communications and Hughes Telematics will be signing a definitive merger agreement under which Verizon will acquire Hughes Telematics, Inc. (HTI) for $12.00 per share in cash, or a total of $612 million.

The transaction will expand Verizon's capabilities in the automotive and fleet telematics marketplace and accelerate growth in key vertical segments, including emerging machine-to-machine (M2M) services applications driven by consumer trends and increasingly connected lifestyles. The Board of Directors of HTI has unanimously approved the transaction upon the recommendation of its special committee, and the transaction was unanimously approved by the directors of Verizon present and voting. The transaction has also been approved by a written consent executed by holders of a majority of HTI's voting shares.

The transaction is subject to the expiration or early termination of the Hart-Scott-Rodino antitrust waiting period and other customary closing conditions.

The merger is expected to close in the third quarter of 2012, and Verizon plans to retain the existing management team and operate the new unit as a subsidiary within Verizon and operated as part of its Verizon Enterprise Solutions group. The business will continue to be headquartered in Atlanta.

Volvo ropes in Mitsubishi Electric to develop infotainment technology

Japan: Volvo Car Corporation has roped in Mitsubishi Electric Corporation as its partner to develop automotive infotainment systems for all Volvo vehicles launched from November 2013 onwards.

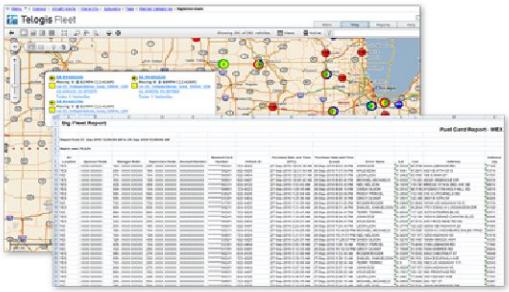
Since 1969, Mitsubishi Electric has been supplying Volvo with car audios, navigation systems and other infotainment equipment. The company's track record as a reliable supplier, as well as its technological capabilities and history of developing strong solutions, are seen as important factors in Volvo's decision.

Improved reporting by Geoforce GPS Tracking leads to increased productivity and profits

USA: Geoforce has extended its pure location tracking solution with improved maintenance diagnosis and inspection compliance reporting. Earlier, Geoforce's smart GPS devices offered reports about engine hours, in-motion hours, idle time, battery voltage and odometer data to make it easier for fleet managers to schedule preventative maintenance and reduce downtime for unscheduled repairs. Now, with the improved reporting the GPS offers quick graphical views, excel spreadsheets, and email alerts to show the maintenance or compliance status of a specific equipment or group of assets. Geoforce's advanced GPS tracking software operates in the cloud to provide live traffic information and near real-time vehicle monitoring for more intelligent routing enabling further fuel costs savings.

Telogis and FleetCor teams up for fuel card management and telematics integration

USA: Telogis and FleetCor Technologies has signed a global partnership for the integration of telematics and fuel card reporting that will assist in bringing greater visibility to a business' fueling activities, improve reporting, and help reduce unauthorized fuel card use with the ultimate goal of driving down total fuel expense. The partnership includes the introduction of the Telogis Universal Premium Fleet Card powered by FleetCor and the launch of the next-generation fuel management module for Telogis Fleet.



PeopleNet offers engine reporting for CNG and LNG vehicles

USA: PeopleNet has introduced vehicle management reporting feature that helps alternative fuel powered fleets accurately measure driver and vehicle performance and forecast savings of switching to natural gas. The company announced that it is the only telematics provider to deliver engine reporting for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) vehicles. PeopleNet translates the data set of pounds of compressed or liquid gas to Diesel Equivalent Gallons.

CoPilot GPS made available for free from iTunes and Google Play

USA: ALK, the company behind CoPilot, has announced that new CoPilot GPS app is now available to download for free from iTunes and Google Play. The initial download is free, and downloading one country's maps is also free. CoPilot GPS is an offline route planning and local exploring app that offers complete route details sans mobile data connection. Detailed maps of an entire country or region are stored on the smartphone or tablet, so that the user'll be able to calculate routes and get driving or walking directions even when there's no cell coverage.

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