

09-18
7 October 2009

Fuel economy the key as Translink opts for MiX Telematics fleet management solution

Northern Ireland's largest bus operator, Translink is seeking to significantly reduce the fuel consumption of its fleet through the fitment of on-board fleet management solutions from MiX Telematics. To evaluate the potential savings, MiX Telematics FM Communicator systems with optional RIBAS display units are now being fitted to a fleet of 60 Volvo B7R high capacity single deckers currently in build with Ballymena-based Wrightbus for use on Ulsterbus Services

"MiX Telematics first came to our attention via positive reports in the trade press and favourable comments from fellow operators and bus and coach manufacturers," says Paul Slaney, Bus Engineering Technical Manager for Translink. "Subsequently, our own further investigations convinced us that there is the potential for worthwhile savings, hence our decision to install the system in this batch of vehicles. When the vehicles enter service, we will be monitoring and evaluating their progress closely and are looking forward to reaping the benefits along the road ahead."

FM Communicator and RIBAS display

As MiX Telematic's premium on-board computer, the FM Communicator offers vehicle tracking, communications and the ability to interface with satellite navigation systems. Accompanying the FM Communicator is a choice of reporting software; FM Pro for PC-based analysis, or FM-Web for internet-based access.

The RIBAS display, which operates in conjunction with FM Communicator and is offered as an optional extra, is a dashboard-mounted array of five LEDs which illuminate whenever the driver exceeds a pre-programmed vehicle parameter. Each LED is positioned alongside its corresponding letter, where:

R = over **R**evving
I = excessive **I**dling
B = harsh **B**raking
A = harsh **A**cceleration
S = over **S**peeding

MiX Telematics

Founded in 1996, MiX Telematics is a global provider of vehicle tracking and fleet management products and services to consumers and companies of all sizes in over 75 countries on six continents. The company's commercial product range – formerly marketed under the VDO brand and sold by Siemens VDO for 10 years – helps fleet owners ensure driver and passenger safety, reduce fleet running and fuel costs, comply with selected industry regulations, and track and protect vehicles and drivers. Commercial customers include Parmalat, Schlumberger, Chevron, Greyhound, Spar, and Scania. MiX Telematics has offices in South Africa, Germany and the United Kingdom and an extensive global distribution network.

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