

Centrico BRIEFING NOTE

Using ITS to manage Europe's busiest roads



Exploring Innovative Approaches in ITS - II

SUMMARY

Traffic problems, on the TERN and in conurbation areas, are promising to increase in the coming years. In their battle with forever growing congestion some countries have decided to set up a program with ambitious innovative projects to handle these problems. To show what the future can bring this note on innovative projects was written. This is part 2 of this briefing note which describes projects in France, Belgium and Germany. Part 1 describes projects in The Netherlands, England and Germany.

FRANCE

In France, the “Arc Atlantique” project aims improving the management of the traffic, which transits through France on the estuary area roads from Calais towards south Atlantic coast cities and harbors. The “Arc Atlantique” is key corridor in Europe, because it supports the (constantly growing) freight traffic related with the channel ports and it provides an attractive alternate for north - south traffic wishing to avoid the Paris area. Within this project, the SAPN and Sanef motorways operators, the French ministry and various cities and ports authorities, jointly aim at the coordinated implementation of traffic monitoring and management systems to better coordinate network management measures and to provide integrated information services. The project started in 2003 and has already delivered so interesting results:

- Provision of travel time information on long distance route, from Paris to Rouen and Caen.
- Commissioning of a wide range of media to deliver traffic information such as VMS, interactive telephone services, road side internal terminals, extension on 107.7 FM traffic radio, etc.
- Development of an Internet Freight Portal (www.euroservice.com) which provides an easy access to key information such as real traffic in the region, harbour information, national and

local traffic restrictions and more. It has recently been extended to provide the service in the South East of England in addition to the initial French regions.

GERMANY

The use of conurban traffic information for motorway traffic management (and vice versa) has been recognized as one of the most important areas to increase the performance, improve the safety and support user's comfort on the Trans-European road network.

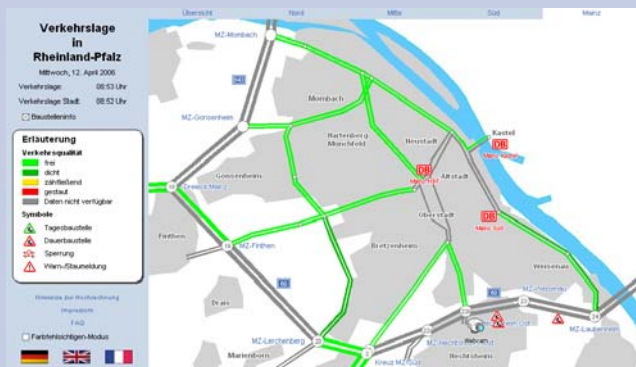
In order to address this goal a pilot-project for the city of Mainz, the capital Rheinland-Pfalz (Germany), was launched in October 2004 pursuing the following tasks:

- A dynamic traffic state for the urban trunk roads is produced and published on the Internet. This information is based on traffic flow simulations using real-time traffic data coming from already existing inductive loops.
- All information is transferred and processed into the existing regional information system for the motorways of Rheinland-Pfalz (www.verkehr.rlp.de).
- A location based link to the dynamic time-table information system of German rail is given as a first step to include other transportation modes.

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The project is carried out in cooperation between municipal authorities and the road administration of Rheinland-Pfalz. It is supported by IVM Frankfurt Rhein-Main, an association that coordinates traffic management activities in the Rhine-Main conurbation area.



First results are available and being evaluated. The website was presented to the road user in January 2006. Since its start the service is very well used. The system will be extended, in time for the Football World Championship in Germany (June 2006), also to the city of Kaiserslautern.

BELGIUM

The innovative projects in Belgium focus on:

- Traffic management of bottle necks
- Traffic management during road works
- Traffic info on the underlying network.

These are indeed the main concerns of the road administrators of the very dense and congested road network. Several projects are running.

Traffic management in the tunnels of Brussels

The Brussels ministry is implementing a licence plate/vehicle recognition system in the tunnels of Brussels to measure travel/ average speed. This is important as information for traffic management but also an additional input to define the air quality in the tunnels. The same system will also be used to enforce speeding and to warn truck drivers entering the tunnels. There are not allowed to drive in the tunnels.

Traffic management during road works on the Antwerp ring

The Flemish ministry has proven by the 'Minder Hinder' project that ITS and integrated traffic management can indeed help to resolve problems during major road works. During the road works on the ring road of Antwerp the road administrator, the urban police and the interurban police were working together on implementing integrated scenarios of traffic management on urban and interurban level. Specific priority was given to public transport as well on motorways as in the urban road network. With radio broadcasters present in the traffic centre a direct communication with the driver was guaranteed. The scenarios were also supported by VMS (textual and speed) and by a specific web site (including a route planner).

Floating car data based on GSM in Flanders

The government of Flanders, Proximus (a mobile operator in Belgium) and ITIS Holdings plc has piloted in Flanders a new traffic collection technology for measuring real time traffic flow based on anonymously sampling the positions of mobile phones in moving vehicles.

The system should provide high quality data on highways and the underlying road network, including real-time travel times and velocities over selected segments. The possibility to deduce origin destination data from the collected FCD data was investigated by IT IS.

For more information on this topic, please contact:

Caroline Visser

C.M.Visser@vcnl.rws.minvenw.nl

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