

SCHEDULING CHALLENGE? OMNIBUS CONSULTANCY HAS THE ANSWERS

Need some extra support for a major network re-scheduling? Or do you just occasionally need some scheduling expertise?

Whatever the situation, if you have a scheduling challenge, the Omnibus Schedules Consultancy Service can help you out. And you don't even have to be an Omnibus customer.

Says Richard Yeo: "We have a tremendous breadth of transport scheduling experience here at Omnibus. For an operator facing a major rescheduling exercise that is overloading their own resources, we can provide experienced consultants to lend a hand."

"And this offer is not limited to companies using our software. We also provide scheduling consultancy services, generally to smaller companies, who see that utilising our expertise can be a cost-effective way of designing and implementing efficient schedules."

Recent projects undertaken by the Omnibus team include assistance with tender bids, schedules compilation for major rail replacement services, and general bus service scheduling. Users of the Omnibus Schedules Consultancy Service have been a cross section of bus and tram operators from around the UK.

Want to find out more? Contact Richard Yeo on 0161 683 3100 or at info@omnibus-systems.co.uk.

Omnibus consolidates with BusTimes acquisition

Two of Britain's leading specialists in the application of information technology to the production of transport solutions have come together in a deal which confirms the position of Omnibus as the largest British provider of specialist systems to the public transport industry.

Omnibus has acquired Figurehead Data Systems, best known for its BusTimes timetable editing software. BusTimes was introduced in 1982, and is used by many bus companies and local authorities in the UK and abroad.

Figurehead also designs and produces printed publicity – maps, timetables and similar material – for transport operators and local councils.

Laurie Punnett, Senior Partner at Figurehead says: "The software sector has been consolidating recently and there is an obvious synergy between Omnibus and ourselves. Together we will be able to increase our combined range of products, support and services."



Peter Crichton, Managing Director of Omnibus comments: "The acquisition of Figurehead will enable us to further expand the services and products we can offer to our clients. We are very pleased that Laurie will be involved with us in expanding the successful publicity side of the Figurehead business."

Omnibus is now exploring a range of opportunities that the acquisition of Figurehead opens up. "Watch this space!" says Peter.

OMNIBUS HAILS CAESAR

Accurate schedules information forms a key element of Transport for London's ambitious iBus Project, to fit real -time tracking to over 8000 buses, with operators now required to submit timetables for services and tenders in a new electronic format. CAESAR (Central Automated Electronic Schedules Application and Repository) requires not only timetable information but also full details of all empty bus journeys and driver duties. To provide this information in an

acceptable format Transport for London have specified a bespoke CAESAR export file which operators are required to supply.

Omnibus has developed an easy to use export routine that has been completed and tested prior to the Transport for London implementation deadline. The new process is now available to those who operate or wish to tender for services in London.

NEW FACES AT OMNIBUS

With a growing number of users, Omnibus has further expanded its specialist support team with two new appointments.

David Abraham has joined the team as Business Support Manager, bringing with him some 40 years experience in the bus industry.

"I'm delighted to be joining such a well respected company," says David, "and to be able to put my expertise to use in ensuring that Omnibus customers get the very best out of the systems we supply."

In 40 years David has been involved in scheduling and network planning for a range of public and private sector businesses, primarily in the north-west of England – including municipal and PTE bus operations, the National Bus Company and most recently Arriva.

The other new face is **Lawrence Jones**, who joins as a programmer, making use of skills honed over a career focussed on information technology that has included 18 years with Ferranti, a pioneer in computer technology, and working with Roamasoft, a mobile software specialist.

Lawrence's first assignment at Omnibus is developing a new pay rules editor that will form a significant refinement to the Depot Allocation System, which Omnibus recently acquired from Excel Solutions.

"The work I'm doing will allow DAS not just to calculate hours worked, but to identify appropriate rates of pay," Lawrence explains. "Thus it will take into account periods of work which attract enhanced rates, allowing the system to be integrated with an organisation's payroll."

C a s e S t u d y

M A Y N E O F M A N C H E S T E R

With a weekday peak vehicle requirement of 32, Mayne of Manchester is one of Omnibus' smaller clients – but for Mayne's Traffic Manager Fred Wallace, the programs that Omnibus supplies make life a lot easier.

"We use OmniTIMES and OmniBASE to create timetables and schedules," he says. "When there are any changes to services we simply key in the information and it does the job."

Mayne has been operating buses in Manchester for some 80 years, making it one of the region's longest established bus operators, and it was also one of Omnibus' earliest clients. Its initial involvement with Omnibus' scheduling software dates back to 1991, when Mayne saw benefits in buying into the expertise that Omnibus offered.

"It's all too easy to think that scheduling software is only of use to big operators," says Omnibus Managing Director Peter Crichton, "but as Mayne's experience shows, that isn't necessarily the case.

"Even for a small company, there can be benefits in using our programs to manage changes to timetables and schedules in a way which is cost-effective and maximises schedule efficiency."



With regular investment in new vehicles Mayne runs a modern fleet in what is essentially an urban operation. This includes trunk services running into Manchester city centre, and less frequent suburban services, primarily under contract to the Greater Manchester PTE.

Fred Wallace has been working with the Omnibus programs for three years and has nothing but praise. "It's a very good system", he says. "It certainly makes my life easier, with 32 buses. For Schedulers and Traffic Managers looking after big fleets it must be a godsend."

Rental option

Big enough to need scheduling software, but concerned about the up-front investment? Then why not try an Omnibus rental package?

Not all businesses feel the need to buy scheduling software, and recognising this, Omnibus can offer a range of rental agreements which provide smaller companies with all the benefits of the Omnibus product range..

To learn more, contact Richard Yeo on 0161 683 3100 or at info@omnibus-systems.co.uk.

Meet the team

Omnibus Systems will be exhibiting at Transport Innovations 2006, which is taking place at the National Exhibition Centre from 7 to 9 November, at the same time as Euro Bus Expo. We will be delighted to answer questions, explain our product range, meet up with existing customers – and even provide you with a chocolate or two! You'll find us in Hall 4, Stand C123.