

"When OmniNEWS was launched it was intended as a tool to inform clients what we were up to. It has now become more than this; it's a record of the progress Omnibus have made together with the industry. Our developments over the last year demonstrate this: an effective editor for NaPTAN v2, ability to import and export TransXChange and dynamic web engine OmniWEB have all come about as a result of clients' needs.

Our presence at Transport Innovations this year was our largest to date – again, a result of demand! As with previous years, we had a great time meeting prospective and existing clients and friends. The interest in our products came from a broad cross section of the industry; not only small and large bus operators, but also Local Authorities and numerous transport consultants. Thanks to all those who joined us at the show.

On-line, we have just launched our new look website. This is an important resource for both clients and prospective customers, and for our growing overseas markets to obtain information about us. Do take a look " - www.omnibus-systems.co.uk.

Peter Crichton

Transport Innovations 2007

This image sums up the two days of Transport Innovations 2007 for us - With a steady flow of people - prospective clients, established customers and old friends from the industry. We would like to thank all those people who came to see us at the stand to view demonstrations of our software portfolio.



Continued overleaf..

Rewarding Times for Omnibus

It is always nice to be recognised for our efforts to provide industry leading services, software and support. In the last month, Omnibus have received two such accolades: -

"Management System of the Year 2008"

Omnibus have been awarded the title of 'Best Passenger Transport Management System of the Year, 2008' by the Institute of Transport Management. This is the third accreditation received from the ITM, Omnibus having won in 2003 and 2001.

The award comes as a result of ITM 'seeking to establish the one company that provided the most effective system with maximum return and which involved the minimum initial effort and outlay'. Patrick Sheedy, of the ITM said, "These services have been developed with versatility in mind, taking the form of a diverse number of packages which cater for the needs of both small independent operators and the largest

passenger transport organisations.

I am delighted to welcome Omnibus back to the awards table, and this is a true reflection of the outstanding efforts put in by its staff and management."

Highly Commended – "Innovation of the Year 2007"

We came runner-up in this award, linked to the Transport Innovations show and presented by RouteOne magazine. Omnibus were 'highly recommended' for their publicity modules OmniSTOP, OmniWEB and OmniEXPORT. Quoting from the awards release; "In the last 2 years, Omnibus have developed software that takes core data from OmniTIMES and OmniBASE, already created for other purposes, and uses it to manage and populate publicity – removing the need for manual intervention and re-inputting of information"

Carol Crichton, Director of Omnibus said, "While we obviously don't work to get awards, it is great when the company achieves recognition for what we do. It's confirmation that we are doing the right thing!"



Left to right: Mark Griffin, Transport Innovations Show Director, Peter Crichton and (right) Rod Fletcher, Chairman of the Innovation of the Year 2007 Judges Panel.

Case Study

TRENT BARTON BUS

Trent Barton is an operator who takes pride in its achievements. Since 1999 Trent Barton has won the "Bus Operator of the Year" 3 times and been runner up twice.

A part of this is attributed to their forward thinking attitude towards technology. With a modern fleet, Trent Barton has used a real time Depot Allocation System for some time. "We started off with the text based Traffic Office System from Excel Solutions in 2001, and have now had the DAS system for 6 years", says Simon Craggs of Trent Barton. When Omnibus bought the product from Excel, the company transferred to Omnibus' books. "We always had a good working relationship with Excel, and the takeover by Omnibus built on that further - the support from Omnibus and their experience within the bus industry has been excellent."

Trent Barton runs over 330 buses in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, and employs over 1000 people - including 800 drivers. "We use the DAS (Depot Allocation System) for planning and tracking our bus routes, drivers, driver duties and buses." Simon continued, "Using the system, with direct input from our scheduling system, we eliminate duplication in data entry. We use the DAS reporting module for numerous management reports, including daily exception reporting for our staff and vehicle allocation exceptions.

None of this could be done manually, within the

allotted tight timescales to pay the drivers on a weekly basis.

As a modern bus company, we find the whole system very useful. We need instant access to all our driver, bus and duty information - for making last minute adjustments if a driver has to go home sick, or a bus breaks down."

With the introduction of DAS Payrules in 2007, Trent Barton saw an opportunity to build on the information the system gave them; "Omnibus were creating a new module for calculating pay. We took great interest as it had the potential to automate a lot of manual tasks.

We managed to incorporate a lot of tasks to do with makeup and holidays, as well as having reports generated by the system instead of a

separate link. We have never looked back since, as the system now takes half the time to generate the files required to import into our payroll server."

As with all day to day technology, it's not just about the software itself, but the support that comes with it. Trent Barton requires prompt support to run alongside the real-time operations. "The customer support has been great for us, from both continuing support of day to day matters right through to development of software and updates.

It gives us peace of mind that we have such a good team behind the DAS system, confident in the fact that any problems will get resolved quickly. The team at Omnibus are very friendly and helpful every time we call."

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Bus allocation - All". It contains a table with columns for No., Type, Positor, Loc, Status, No., Sta., Point, End, Point, Type, Line, Duty, Star, Point, End, Point, Bus, Type, Loc, Notes. The table lists various bus routes and their statuses. Below the table, there are buttons for "Available", "In use", "Out of service", "Unallocated", "Matched", "Allocated", and "Decks". To the right of the screenshot is a red Trent Barton bus with the destination "22 Nottingham Old Market Square" displayed on its front.

Brief updates...

Long standing client FirstGroup is rolling out OmniSTOP to the majority of its UK bus subsidiaries.

As an addition to existing Omnibus products, OmniSTOP will use existing data from the OmniTIMES timetable database to produce comprehensive bus stop displays around the United Kingdom.

The program is already implemented at the majority of its operations. Ian Nicholls, of First in the Midlands said, "OmniSTOP is a dynamic, versatile & efficient tool from which we have managed to effectively produce a wide range of bus stop displays, in a very time effective manner."

Omnibus are also pleased to announce that they have completed implementation of OmniTIMES and OmniSTOP at Somerset County Council. PocketBUS is also being supplied to monitor operator performance.

John Perrett, of Somerset, said "The transition to Omnibus from our previous system was seamless, and we are pleased with data output we are already getting - including the stop displays, which look very good".

And finally, for those unable to attend Transport Innovations, we will be exhibiting at the Transport Show at Glasgow's SECC, on 30th October 2007. Contact us to prearrange a meeting at this event, or email through our website; www.omnibus-systems.co.uk

Innovations '07 Cont...

This year Omnibus MD Peter Crichton spoke at one of the show seminars, on the subject of data management from the scheduler's perspective.

And it wasn't just for sales either - "We always have members of our technical team available at this show", said Omnibus Business Development Manager, Michael Meilton. "It provides an opportunity to see the products Omnibus can offer with the chance to discuss them with those involved in developing them.

If you missed this year's show but want to talk to us, please pick up the phone or contact us through our web site.