

Omnibus takes to the road

Omnibus will be exhibiting their software at two major events this year..

For those within local authorities and ATCO, Omnibus would like to extend a welcome to stand 29 at the ATCO summer conference in Llandudno (13-15th June). This year we will be showcasing recently developed software, including OmniFLAG, OmniWEB and the NaPTAN v.2 Editor. In addition we will be showing our established products, such as OmniTIMES and OmniSTOP.

Operators and local authorities will have another opportunity to come and visit us at the 2007 Transport Innovations Show (10-11th October)– we'll be hard to miss, as we are just inside the entrance! As usual, we will be bringing the whole range of products for inspection and discussion. We welcome visits from new and existing clients.

And if you can't make either of these events, we have recently relaunched the entire range of product information, and will shortly be launching a new, more accessible, website. Please ring 0161 683 3100 if you would like more information.

Spring Tidings from Omnibus

Over the years, Omnibus have discovered that their software solutions are of interest to more than Bus Operators. With over 35 Local Authorities now using Omnibus software to record and publicise bus timetables, the company is continually opening doors to new markets – often through recommendation. These companies and authorities have found that the organisation and management of transport services can be done effectively through the sensible use of software solutions.

Joining the clients who form this new wave discovering Omnibus is Thames Clippers, the leading provider of commuter passenger services on the Thames. In purchasing OmniTIMES and OmniVIEW, they will compile and manage their riverboat timetables.

Adding to the local authorities that use Omnibus, Wrexham County Borough Council, North Somerset Council and City of Stoke on Trent Council have ordered OmniTIMES and OmniSTOP to publish bus stop displays. Stoke, along with North Lincolnshire Council, have also purchased OmniFLAG to manage their roadside assets. Wiltshire County Council and South Gloucestershire Council have purchased additional OmniSTOP modules, enabling them to provide a greater resource for roadside displays.

Meanwhile Denbighshire County Council have purchased OmniTIMES, linking timetabling with their real-time systems and Somerset County Council have ordered OmniTIMES, OmniSTOP and PocketBUS to assist with publicity and service monitoring.



And what of the Bus Operators?

In Yorkshire and Lancashire, Blazefield have added CrewPLAN and OmniROTA to their existing Omnibus products and upgraded their OmniSTOP to include batch bus stop printing. The Transdev company is a long standing client of Omnibus and this represents further commitment to Omnibus solutions.

Operating some 200 buses, the new Go Ahead Group operations in the West Midlands have purchased the entire suite of OmniTIMES, OmniBASE, CrewPLAN and

OmniROTA to help them schedule and manage operations.

Finally, NCP have added OmniTIMES and OmniBASE to its Birmingham Airport bus services. This means that Omnibus now assists NCP across three of its major airport facilities.

"2007 has been a busy time for us", commented Business Development Manager Michael Meilton, "as a lot of work comes from recommendation, it is both compliment and testament to the team and the solutions."

JOINED UP THINKING

Omnibus software spans all major aspects of public transport operations, and transport planning functions within local authorities.

With new technological and industry developments coming all the time, Omnibus strive to stay ahead of the competition – and to keep our clients ahead of theirs.

Contact us to see what we can do for you.

Omnibus products communicate and export in all formats required by clients:

- **NaPTAN v.2**
- **ATCO-CIF**
- **TransXChange**
- **Traveline**
- **Bespoke outputs (e.g. for real-time systems)**

C a s e S t u d y

H E R E F O R D S H I R E C O U N C I L

by Stewart Brown

Better bus stop information, improved timetable booklets and the easy supply of data to Traveline are among the benefits which Herefordshire Council has realised since adopting Omnibus software.

The impetus to move away from the previous timetable data system, which was built around word processing software, was the need to supply data to Traveline in an acceptable format. "We looked around at software and decided that the Omnibus suite of programs was the best for our purposes," says Paul Williamson, Public Transport Assistant at Herefordshire Council.



The first step was the adoption of OmniTIMES to create a timetable database, which is the platform for all the other bus service information provided by the council. OmniTIMES allows for the smooth export of data to Traveline. Then comes OmniEXPORT, which is used to format the information in a way which supports the production of the council's new-look timetable booklets. These cover the county in three areas, and give full details of all bus services in each area.

"We took the opportunity to redesign the timetable booklets," Paul Williamson explains, "adopting an A5 landscape format which is easier to use. The new timetable booklets have been well received; people like them."

Instead of giving a description of each route in the timetables, the Omnibus software allows Herefordshire to provide a list of stopping places which is easier to read and to understand, and more relevant to bus users.

Then came the use of OmniSTOP to create attractive new displays for use at bus stops. "In the past we used pages from timetables, which with 8 point type were not ideal," Paul Williamson continues. "Now we can produce relevant information using larger type – 12 or 14 point where possible, but never less than 10. It is a big improvement in presentation and, of course, in the clarity of the information, with data specific to an individual stop.

"A big advantage of using the Omnibus programs is that generally there is only one source of data, so there is a reduced chance of errors occurring," Paul Williamson adds. "It simplifies timetable production as we send the data to our printer electronically. It also speeds up the process of producing bus stop information, as well as giving a neater end result."

Displays which have been produced using OmniSTOP are a feature of an upgraded public transport corridor between Hereford and Ledbury, where the council has provided new bus stops with new flags and new display cases. A similar upgrade is now on schedule for a second corridor, between Hereford and Leominster and Richards Castle.

"The Omnibus software really has made life easier," Paul Williamson concludes. "It allows us to handle data quickly, and to use it in different formats which are user-friendly for bus passengers, and which are accurate because it eliminates the transcription errors which can occur when transferring data manually between different systems. We are very pleased with its performance."

O m n i M O V E D

Those visiting our offices during the last six months may have noticed that space has been rapidly becoming a precious commodity!

In 2006, Omnibus decided to relocate its head office to the newly developed wing of Hollinwood Business Centre. At the end of March

we moved in. The new office gives us much larger development and support areas, with new training and conference facilities.

The move also saves us from having to send out masses of 'change of address' cards!

INFORMATION TO THE MASSES

For clients needing to publish bus stop and travel information, Omnibus offers several useful solutions. Utilising existing Omnibus software to control and assist data input, makes the job of marketing and publicity becomes more user friendly and much less labour intensive.

OmnistOP - Working with Omnibus timetable software, OmnistOP produces bus stop displays efficiently and accurately. Complete bus stop displays for entire routes and networks can be produced quickly to ensure the punctual publicity of changes.

OmnEXPORT - transports OmniTIMES data into formats compatible with common publishing packages for use in timetable booklets or leaflets

OmnWEB - Publishing timetables online is as simple as linking OmniTIMES data with dynamic software that automatically presents the information in usable formats.

NEW FACE AT OMNIBUS

Jeremy Howat has joined transport software developers Omnibus as Sales & Marketing Manager. Formerly working with demand responsive software, Jeremy joins with experience of developing sales strategy



and processes. This experience will add a further dimension to Omnibus' industry experienced team. Managing Director Peter Crichton said, "We have spent time

building a team from the bus and transport industries.

"Jeremy is a strategic thinker and will be an excellent addition to our team at a time when we are developing new products and services.

"Jeremy will be exploring new markets and helping continue Omnibus expansion both in the UK and overseas."