

## Depot Allocation - the Omnibus way

With the successful completion of initial implementations at Ipswich Buses (see the case study in this issue) and the pilot Blazefield operation at Keighley and District, Omnibus are shortly launching the new **OmniDAS** Bus Allocation Module to complement Crew Allocation, with lost mileage functionality built in.

In addition to this visible enhancement to **OmniDAS**, the pay rule structure within the system has been developed so that it can calculate complex pay and

conditions, without replacing the flexibility offered by the separate Time and Attendance Module - where clients can manually adjust timesheet information prior to sending through to payroll.

More fundamentally, Omnibus have

integrated **OmniDAS** with other software modules, such as **OmniTIMES**, **OmniBASE** and **OmniROTA**. This enables users to import duties and running board information into Depot Allocation simply and efficiently.

If you are looking at renewing or introducing a Depot Allocation System, speak to Omnibus to arrange a demonstration.



## Middle Eastern Promise



Omnibus are pleased to announce that we will shortly be installing a comprehensive suite of scheduling and allocation software for Citybus, in Kuwait.

In purchasing **OmniTIMES**, **OmniBASE**, **OmniROTA**, **CrewPLAN** and **OmniDAS** Kuwait Citybus want a complete system, which will help them optimise and reorganise their network of services as they grow in the region.

Speaking about the project, Peter Crichton said, "We are delighted to be extending our international client base. It demonstrates that bus services have similar issues and needs all over the world and we are pleased we can help."

## MANAGING ELECTRONIC REGISTRATIONS

The provision of Electronic Bus Service Registration (EBSR), underpinned by the TransXChange standard data format, is now becoming a reality for many Operators and Local Authorities with paper registrations replaced by the electronic equivalent.

An essential requirement for those dealing with Electronic Registrations is to have software that enables the process to be carried out both quickly and easily. EBSR will significantly reduce the amount of paperwork required to register a service and remove any errors in interpretation of the documents. The electronic transfer of data will also remove the need for timetable data to be entered from paper

sources, providing significant time savings in creating timetable data for Traveline and other purposes.

Omnibus have developed a suite of programs to enable users to fully exploit the benefits of EBSR and TransXChange. Our EBSR Module will take the user step by step through the process of creating Registrations. For Local Authorities the timetable data from the EBSR files submitted by operators can be easily imported into **OmniTIMES** in a matter of seconds. In a couple of minutes you can import 30-40 new registrations, whilst under the current system you would still be opening the envelopes! This frees up

valuable time for other purposes.

This Omnibus technology is already in use at a number of clients, including PTI Cymru and Northamptonshire Council who use it to import EBSR information into **OmniTIMES** for their Traveline database.

This software will be on show at both the ALBUM Conference in Blackpool (11th-13th May) and the ATCO Summer Conference in Torquay (18th-19th June). Please call at our stand and see the potential benefits that can be gained from Electronic Bus Service Registration. Alternatively, further details can be found on our website [www.omnibus.uk.com](http://www.omnibus.uk.com) or by contacting us on 0161 683 3100.

# What our clients have to say...

## IPSWICH BUSES

Written by Dean Robbie, Operations Manager - Ipswich Buses Ltd

Ipswich Buses have had a good relationship with Omnibus for many years now, covering our mutual love of fine beers and curry as well the business side of life. We have been using a range of Omnibus systems including OmniTIMES, OmniBASE, OmniROTA, CrewPLAN and OmniSTOP for all this time. In all fairness, these products do what they say on the tin and if we have any issues we contact Omnibus customer support who respond quickly and professionally resolving the issue to a satisfactory conclusion.

Ipswich Buses Ltd has a current Peak Vehicle Requirement of 60 buses with a fleet of 76 buses operating a network of 18 town routes and mixture of rural routes and school contracts. Using OmniBASE we can schedule our vehicles and duties more efficiently, removing unproductive elements from driver duties as well as getting the most out of our fleet of buses, helping to reduce our running costs and vehicle requirements - basically tightening up our operation.

We recently obtained the OmniDAS allocation system to replace our Grampian system. After visiting several other operators to see what they were doing we chose OmniDAS because it ticked all the boxes we required for our business. We have now been running OmniDAS live since March 2009 after a period of parallel running with our old system. There have been some teething troubles but these have all

been worked through and resolved and we are currently moving the business towards linking directly to our payroll software. Our supervisors have had mixed reactions to the introduction of this system, ranging from thinking it is brilliant to not liking it at all. However, that's always the way when significant change is introduced. Overall, our supervisors are getting to grips with OmniDAS and changes have been made to accommodate their requirements in the day to day operation of the system.

Omnibus has supported us throughout this process, always going that little bit further to help us resolve any difficulties. The in house training we received was spot on - we have nothing but praise for the chap who came down to train our

supervisors; nothing was too much for him, a shining example of the Omnibus commitment to get things right.

In summary, Ipswich Buses has had a long relationship with Omnibus and I can see this lasting for a long time to come as they have achieved something that a lot of suppliers fail to do. They actually have after sales service that works for you and not against you and are actually happy to assist you to get things right. Where else do you get that in this day and age?



## SEE SOMETHING THAT YOU LIKE?

If you wish to see any Omnibus product first hand, please contact us. We are attending several events this year, so if you plan to attend any of the following please visit our stand or make an arrangement for a demonstration whilst you are there (or just pop by for the obligatory Omnibus chocolate!)

ALBUM Conference, Blackpool (11th – 13th May)

ATCO Summer Conference, Torquay (18th – 19th June)

Coach and Bus Live, Birmingham NEC (7th – 8th October)

So, if it's EBSR you need, depot allocation, timetables and scheduling, displays, mapping or rota building – in fact any of our products – please come along and ask!



Hollinwood Business Centre · Albert Street · Hollinwood · Oldham OL8 3QL

Tel: 0161 683 3100 · Fax: 0161 683 3102 · Email: [info@omnibus.uk.com](mailto:info@omnibus.uk.com) · Web: [www.omnibus.uk.com](http://www.omnibus.uk.com)