

CUSTOMER Case

Public Transport

CDP 4 joins the üstra network

Cash Deposit Systems are used by transport companies in many countries to give drivers a secure point to register and store the day's cash takings. However, things rarely stand still in the transport sector.

A new trend is emerging, as more transport companies are looking not just for stand-alone Cash Deposit Systems, but solutions that can be integrated into their networks to help gather and deliver business data.

This development has been especially marked in Germany. The country's complex public transport system requires close control of data to split ticket money between companies on many routes, and to supply statistics that support transport companies' continued operating licences. One of the German public transport companies that has advanced most in system integration is üstra, which serves Hanover.

A vital part of the network

"For üstra, it was not just a case of replacing our Cash Deposit Systems. Finding the right cash deposit solution was part of a much bigger project and had to

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– üstra Project Engineer, Nils Küster.

fit in with our network and our aim to integrate our software and systems to improve information flows," says Project Engineer, Nils Küster.

Mr Küster is leading a major integration project at üstra that involves linking PATRIS® (Passenger Transport Integrated Sales System), which centrally handles bus ticket money flows, with new on-board bus computer software

from IVU that handles both ticketing and Automatic Vehicle Location.

The existing cash deposit machines installed at üstra were unsuitable for a network role. üstra chose the Cash Deposit Point, CDP 4, from SCAN COIN as the vital integrated link between its on-board bus software and central accounting system.



üstra

üstra is a leading German public transport company serving the city of Hanover in Lower Saxony. The company has around 2,000 employees and carries over 150 million passengers a year. It operates a modern transport system on a network that is over 900 km long, comprising of 12 tram routes and 59 bus routes.

 SCAN COIN

Good networking capability was considered a decisive factor in favour of CDP 4, supported by the experience of SCAN COIN in transport applications: "They were able to provide a lot of references in the transport sector," says Mr Küster, who adds, "The prices are also very well geared to the needs of transport companies."

CDP 4 is the latest in a series of cash deposit solutions developed specifically for transport companies by SCANCOIN. In addition to the fast, accurate processing of coin, note and transport tokens associated with a Cash Deposit System, CDP 4 has a built-in PC and the connectivity required for networking applications.

"What is attractive is that CDP 4 enables us to effectively network in three layers. We have the network connection with PATRIS®. We have the software connection – the standard CDP 4 software works with the on-board IVU software. And finally, there is the driver's LEGIC card used with CDP 4 that links to our on-board computer systems in the buses."

üstra has purchased two CDP4 machines. The units were installed in January this year at the company's two main bus garages in Hanover, where drivers return after completing their shifts to deposit the days' takings. Each driver has a personal LEGIC card, which carries his cash takings amount from the on-board computer. The card is inserted into the CDP 4, which then processes the data and displays on screen the cash figure that needs to be deposited.

"With CDP 4, this information can go straight to the back office system," says Mr Küster. "Before, we had to have an intermediate computer that sent on the information. Now we can communicate directly with PATRIS® in one process. The new system also prevents mistakes, because the driver's identification num-



ber is taken from the LEGIC card, instead of being typed in by the driver."

The overall integration project is still in progress. The final stage, full deployment of the new on-board computers across the fleet of 230 buses, will be completed by the early summer. Mr Küster concludes, "The CDP 4 machines are already helping us create a much simpler process for the flow of our important business data."