For immediate release

Strasbourg commissions INIT to install a next-generation operations control system

MOBILE-ITCS nextGen offers passengers and control center staff a variety of advantages

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A new system from Germany is going to be implemented for public transport in the Euro city of Strasbourg. The Compagnie des Transports Strasbourgeois (CTS) has chosen MOBILE-ITCS nextGen from Karlsruhe-based telematics specialist INIT for the operations control of its 119 tramways and 246 buses. As a result, employees in the operations control center (OCC) will have state-of-the-art dispatching measures at their disposal to ensure that operations run as smoothly as possible and to increase operational efficiency. For this project, INIT will further develop the tram-specific functions in the ITCS and adapt them to specific requirements in France.

Some of the factors which made INIT their preferred choice were the opportunity to have a single ITCS for trams and buses, and one which is constantly undergoing development, as well as an improved working environment for OCC staff and drivers, proximity to the INIT site, a French-speaking project team, and an extended range of dispatching measures.

Improved working conditions

For this project, INIT will tailor the functionality of its Intermodal Transport Control System MOBILE-ITCS, making it fit for the French public transport market, where trams are one of the most important modes of transport. Possible future dispatching measures include, for example, improved terminal stop management. The new ITCS is capable of mapping the sections of the tram network that are single track and will therefore require special management by the operations control system. Dispatchers will also benefit from improved

working conditions, thanks to MOBILE-ITCS nextGen's ergonomic operating concept (UX design).

Tracking, voice and data transmission

INIT will also be renewing the vehicle location tracking system. In the first phase, the trams will still be located using existing ground beacons and beacon readers in the vehicles. However, as this technology is approaching the end of its lifecycle, in the second phase, INIT will switch to the more cost-effective and less maintenance-intensive system of coupled positioning.

With a combination of logical and physical positioning, the on-board computer will then be able to determine the current location at any time, even without trackside equipment. And with the use of GPS, supplemented by odometry and gyroscopy sensors, the tram's direction of travel and even track changes can be detected with high precision.

Voice and data transmission works using an existing TETRA radio network; a solution that INIT has already successfully implemented in several projects - with VoIP as a fallback level and with the option to switch to the public 4G/5G network in the future. The hardware required for this in the vehicle is provided by INIT's COMgateway communication module, which is certified in accordance with EN 50155 for the railroad sector.

The new COPILOTrail on-board computer, which is used in the trams and has the required galvanic isolation in the device to decouple it from the vehicle electrics, is also currently undergoing the certification process for the rail sector. In the buses, the globally proven COPILOTpc will support all the necessary telematics applications. With this project, INIT is demonstrating its expertise in operations control not only in the bus sector, but also once again in the combined bus and tram sector.

Advantages for CTS passengers

Passengers also benefit from the new operations control system: departure time predictions are calculated in MOBILE-ITCS nextGen using machine learning (ML) algorithms based on current and historical traffic data and are therefore characterized by significantly increased reliability. Improved incident

management will also lead to higher punctuality and greater operations efficiency. And finally, in the future, MOBILE-ITCS nextGen will also provide more accurate information about track changes.

A pioneering public transport system

The public transport system in the Euro city of Strasbourg, which is home to the European Parliament, is already a model for the whole of France, as evidenced by the well-developed tram network, which is set to expand in the future. A route already runs to Kehl in Baden/Germany, making Strasbourg's public transport system cross-border in the true sense of the word. With the new MOBILE-ITCS nextGen at the heart of mobility management, CTS is ideally positioned as an operator of the future.

Picture 1: INIT's MOBILE-ITCS nextGen will be deployed for operations control of the 119 tramways and 246 buses in the Euro city of Strasbourg. © Alan Bertrand

Picture 2: Employees in the operations control center (OCC) will have state-of-the-art dispatching measures at their disposal to ensure that operations run as smoothly as possible and to increase operational efficiency © CTS

About INIT

As a worldwide leading supplier of integrated planning, dispatching, telematics and ticketing systems for buses and trains, INIT has been assisting transport companies in making public transport more attractive, reliable and more efficient for more than 40 years. Today, more than 1,100 transport providers rely on INIT´s innovative hard- and software solutions.

The unique selling proposition of INIT's integrated telematics system MOBILE is that it comprises all of the daily tasks of public transport providers:

- Planning & Dispatching
- Ticketing & Fare Management
- Operations Control & Real-Time Passenger Information
- Analysing & Optimising

With INIT's integrated solutions, transport companies can master all requirements of electromobility and strengthen their role as mobility broker of their region by establishing a mobility platform. An excellent package of operational services completes the INIT offering.

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We look forward to the publication of this release and request a sample copy.