Dial-a-Bus!

Toowoomba buses pilot Flexible Transport Solution

Sydney, Australia - 14th June 2005 – Raywood Solutions Group (RSG), a world-leader in advanced Global Positioning (GPS) job dispatch and vehicle tracking systems for the transport industry, announced today that QLD Transport, in partnership with Transit Australia Pty Ltd (Sunbus), began a pilot of a revolutionary new demand responsive, public transport service.

"Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) solutions fill the gap between big buses and taxis" said Mr Steve Watt, CEO of RSG. "Unlike conventional bus services with fixed routes and times, the demand responsive service is much more flexible, matching more closely to customers needs" continued Mr Watt.

"It is a much more efficient use of resources" said Mr Paul Lucas, Queensland Minister for Transport and Main Roads. "Kan-go will enable passengers to ring and book a bus that will pick them up and drop them at their destination.

"A conventional bus service in a sparsely populated area would have to travel the entire route, even when no-one wants to travel. This leads to long routes and poorly used services," explained Mr Lucas.

RSG's experience in the taxi industry with job booking, GPS tracking and dispatch software, routing and in-vehicle navigation led to the development of the solution for QLD Transport. The solution responds more directly to the requirements of the individual passenger and provides a comparable level of convenience to a taxi, but is as affordable as a bus service.

RSG developed the entire flexible transport solution, which encompasses booking, communications, route optimisation and in-vehicle navigation.

The web-based job booking system allows Sunbus to pre-register and manage passengers using the service. This system also handles bookings and amendments, tracks the buses and optimizes the route that the buses will take. The route optimisation engine calculates the most efficient route to each of the pickup or drop locations. The driver is guided to each point via the on-board GPS navigation system.

The in-vehicle environment uses the advanced MD-X in-vehicle device. The MD-X is fundamentally different to other in-vehicle devices. This Windows CE based, colour, touch-screen device is extraordinarily powerful, allowing complicated navigation solutions to be run in the vehicle. The MD-X has an in-built GPRS modem providing communication to the Flexible Transport Solution over Telstra's GPRS public mobile data network.

As well as providing more flexible passenger services, the system makes it possible to serve a wider area with fewer buses, increasing the efficiency and reducing the cost of running the fleet. The use of real time route optimisation and rescheduling in creating every route the bus will take is the key to increased efficiency.

There is much potential for this flexible transport solution. It could also be used in areas where there is low density housing in urban centres, for night travel in

urban or rural areas or for getting people to and from railway stations or long distance bus services.

About Raywood Solutions:
For innovative fleet operators who are looking to get more from their dispatch technology, RSG provides custom development services and advanced transport solutions. Leveraging the robust and rich Raywood Dispatcher-X platform and MD-X in-vehicle environment RSG builds solutions for next generation fleet operators in the taxi and broader transport industries.

Raywood Solutions is headquartered in Australia and has an office in North America. For more information, visit www.raywoodsolutions.com