PTV | GROUP

the mind of movement

Live traffic information in
TX-CONNECT with PTV xServer

Transics

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Leo ten Veen, International Transport Planner at Verhoek Europe

THE TASK

Transics supplies advanced solutions for truck and trailer management through-out Europe using modern telematics technology. One of its many customers is Verhoek Europe, an international transport company with a fleet of 350 vehicles.

Verhoek specialises in the transportation and distribution of flooring rolls, from vinyl and carpet to artificial grass. "Our entire logistics system has been designed around this task, including our warehouse and trailers. Over the past few years, other flooring materials such as laminate and boards have also been transported," explains Erik Hattem, Head of Human Resources at Verhoek.

As well as the main site in Genemuiden in the Netherlands, Verhoek has five sites in Germany and two in Belgium. From these sites the family business, which was established in 1953, covers a vast distribution network throughout Wes-

tern Europe. In 2008, all Verhoek vehicles were fitted with a Transics fleet management solution, to keep the process running smoothly. This consisted of the TX-CONNECT back-office software at the office and TX-MAX on-board computers for the trucks. "Our customers incresingly require up-to-the-minute information on their consignments. Transics supplies a complete solution and is a trusted partner," says Hattem.

THE SOLUTION

At the head office in Genemuiden, Verhoek uses Transics' new online back-office platform, TX-CONNECT. This platform gives planners at Verhoek a real-time overview of the positions of all vehicles. Through a connection to the digital tachograph, planners are able to quickly check how much driving time each driver has remaining, and therefore who might be able to make an extra journey. "If we receive a request from a customer to pick up a load in Frankfurt

during the course of the day, we can see immediately which vehicle and which driver is nearby," Hattem explains.

Transics' TX-CONNECT back-office software uses PTV xServers, which allow IT companies like Transics to integrate geographical and logistics functions into their software solutions. TX-CONNECT is made up of the following components:

- PTV xLocate Server: offers reverse geocoding and address validation
- PTV xMap Server: shows routes and objects in different formats on the map, with a range of zoom and navigation functions
- PTV xRoute Server: calculates the quickest and shortest route between two or more locations, including distances, journey times and toll charges.

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Jeffrey Baljet, Operations manager, Transics

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"Transics has been working with PTV for thirteen years," explains operations manager Jeffrey Baljet. "We were looking for a B2B partner that focused on the same target group – transport and logistics companies – and that would provide solutions designed especially for our target group. An excellent example of this is the guided navigation that allows planners to choose routes themselves via TX-CONNECT, saving money on unnecessary fuel and toll charges. PTV's software components can also be integrated into our own platform simply and quickly."

Transics and PTV work together closely. Developments at both companies, as well as any requests and suggestions from customers, are discussed at least once a quarter. "Finally, PTV is a driven and results-oriented partner – two values which are also of great importance at Transics," adds Baljet.

THE RESULT

The integration of PTV's new components in the most recent version of Transics' TX-CONNECT back-office software has given Verhoek many more options.

Thanks to the PTV xServer, planners now have access to live traffic information and toll charges. Queues, road works and closures are also displayed clearly on the TX-CONNECT map. With a few clicks, planners can forward traffic information to the on-board computers in one or more trucks, so that the relevant drivers have enough time to choose an alternative route. "This is particularly useful in the winter, when some roads in Germany are closed to trucks due to the snow. We can also give customers advance warning when we see that a driver could get stuck in traffic," says Leo ten Veen, International Transport Planner at Verhoek.

Another tool that runs via the PTV xServer is guided navigation. Using TX-CONNECT, planners can choose their own routes, save them to the memory and forward them to the truck's on-board computer. This means that drivers follow

the specified route automatically, without being aware of it, through their on-board computer's navigation screen. Thanks to corridor fencing, it is possible for planners to signal if a driver does deviate from this route.

Ten Veen likes this option. "If our drivers are travelling from our Cruyshautem site in Belgium to our Sottrum site near Bremen, the navigation system sends them through the Ruhr. We can now send them via Genemuiden. This is a few kilometres further but our drivers can fill up here and will also pay fewer tolls." There is a similar situation for journeys between Berlin and Genemuiden. "The navigation system automatically sends drivers through the hilly area around Hanover. Experienced drivers know that taking this route with a full truck uses up a lot of fuel and so take a detour of a few kilometres through Bremen. Now we can ensure that all drivers take this route," says Ten Veen, who is positive about the collaboration between Transics and PTV. "TX-CONNECT's new capabilities make planners' work much easier and eliminate all kinds of issues."