

Drive Assist to save 3.6 million miles a year with ALK Navigation



UK car leasing company Drive Assist has met its business growth targets thanks to **TaskMaster®**, a **field mobility solution that freed up its fleet by 15 per cent or 2,000 cars** – without loss of efficiency or service.

Situation

Although Drive Assist had efficient logistical capabilities, it wanted to enhance its workflow processes: for example, by reducing paperwork. An average of 240,000 vehicle movements a year was generating six paper forms each or 1,440,000 pieces of paper. As well as being an administrative headache, the forms could easily be misplaced, ruined by bad weather or misinterpreted. The average 50 miles a day driven by more than 500 delivery drivers at Drive Assist's 15 UK depots also needed tackling, as did drivers' use of printed directions together with maps for the delivery addresses. A solution that provided efficient route planning, navigation and ETA (estimated time of arrival) information was thought essential.

Meeting the challenge

To meet the client's requirements, TBS joined forces with ALK Technologies, which uses NAVTEQ digital maps in its CoPilot® Live mobile GPS navigation technology, to create a unique field mobility solution. Together they enhanced Drive Assist's business efficiency and growth by integrating ALK's NAVTEQ-powered CoPilot Live navigation solution with TBS' TaskMaster field mobility solution. Piloted in May 2005, it was so effective that it was soon rolled out across Drive Assist. Now all its drivers have a handheld computer with built-in GPS receiver that has done away with paper maps and directions.

"This is the first solution of its kind to incorporate delivery/collection information (including damage reporting) with integrated, live GPS navigation," said Steve Reynolds, Managing Director of TBS.

The Challenge

The solution had to enhance workflow processes, including reducing paperwork and drivers' delivery mileage.

The Solution

Integrated mobility solution with efficient route planning, navigation and ETA (estimated time of arrival) capabilities

The Benefits

- Reduced field requirements
- Lower fuel costs
- Less vehicle mileage between customers
- Decreased delivery/collection times
- Less paperwork/administration
- Cheaper paper and printing
- Optimised driver/fleet efficiency
- Real-time information updates.

The Taskmaster solution provides them with delivery and inspection details in real time, with jobs sent out from depots using a wireless GPRS data network. Once received on the handheld device, TaskMaster automatically directs the driver to the delivery address by providing turn-by-turn directions on screen and by spoken instructions.

Business efficiencies

By truly integrating CoPilot with TaskMaster, drivers' time was better used, the fleet was maximised, and damage reports speeded up. By calculating the optimum route automatically, for example, drivers could save time by proceeding immediately to the next customer. Taking a car to the next customer became possible on a huge scale – maximising the fleet. And if a vehicle suffered minor damage while on loan to a customer, the resulting inspection and Vehicle Condition Report could be processed quicker and re-charging of repairs could be swifter.

The solution is so effective that savings of 3.6 million miles a year are predicted.

Quote

"We are delighted with the efficiencies we have seen since implementing TaskMaster"

"We have achieved significant business advantage using this innovative solution."

Nigel Bardsley, Operations Director, Drive Assist

About ALK

ALK Technologies – a NAVTEQ partner – is at the forefront of mobile navigation technology. For 27 years, its experts have developed solutions for corporate and consumer customers globally.

ALK's CoPilot® Live mobile navigation solutions are available in Europe, North America and Australia. ALK is a Microsoft Certified gold Partner.

CoPilot Live 6 is a powerful satellite navigation solution for PocketPC PDAs (personal digital assistant), Windows mobile-based and Symbian series 60 phones. Unlike other systems, CoPilot Live provides real-time tracking so others can see where you are on the internet as you drive around. It features turn-by-turn voice guidance, full UK postcode search input and detailed street maps from NAVTEQ.

About NAVTEQ

NAVTEQ is a leading provider of comprehensive digital map information for automotive navigation systems, mobile navigation devices, Internet-based mapping applications, and government and business solutions. NAVTEQ creates the digital maps and map content that power navigation and location-based services solutions around the world. The Chicago-based company was founded in 1985 and has approximately 2,000 employees located in 139 offices in 23 countries. Its European headquarters are in Veldhoven, Netherlands. For more information, visit www.navteq.com.



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