

INVESTMENT IN CONTACTLESS TECHNOLOGY

Computer Cab plc has been working with Barclaycard for several months on progressing the availability of contactless card readers in taxis, recognising the possible natural fit with a dynamic transaction typical in London Taxis. Contactless cards are mostly being aimed at high footfall, fast turnaround retailers such as fast food outlets, but as many London cabbies will testify it's easy to see the fit with the cab trade when so many trips in cabs end with the passenger needing to dash off.

Picture a client in the back of the taxi in a rush to meet his flight, they get to the airport and the usual credit card verification process begins. With contactless, a quick flash of the card allows the passenger to be on their way. And then of course there is the obvious application of perhaps London's best used existing contactless card- Oyster. Malcolm Paice, Head of Operations at Computer Cab plc commented: "The way forward for contactless card payments already looks exciting with Barclaycard and technology suppliers like Ingenico clearly committed to the roll-out. The possibilities of contactless card readers in taxis are made all the more exciting with Oyster cards utilising the same technology. We all know how many people now carry Oyster cards and expect to use those cards right across the London transport network, at Computer Cab plc we are interested in seeing that extend to taxis."

"At the same time we can see the attraction of fast, low value credit card payments in taxis as we see people in London are always in a hurry to get about their business and this is a way of speeding up the transaction without necessarily compromising security." Computer Cab plc were the first taxi operator ever to showcase a contactless card reader on a London taxi when their Concept Cab demonstrated the technology at the Business Travel Show in January.



Gordon Brown chats to Ingenico workers June Frew and Bryan Davidson during this tour of the facility.

Chancellor Gordon Brown recently visited Ingenico UK at their Northern European headquarters in Dalgety Bay where he was welcomed by Amedeo d'Angelo, chief executive officer of Ingenico, and Nick Parsons, managing director of Ingenico UK. The Chancellor said that contactless technology will revolutionise payment in the UK retail sector; the market would be worth £30 billion in the UK when Contactless begins its national roll out later this year with the backing of all the UK major banks.

Traditionally, consumers have used cash for low value purchases but lifestyles and behaviours are changing and with the convenience offered by debit and credit cards, we are becoming less and less a cash-carrying society. Using a Contactless card, consumers will be able to pay for their purchases by simply 'moving' their card in front of the reader. Designed for low value purchases the transaction threshold for Contactless is likely to be set at £10. Purchases above £10 will require a Chip & PIN transaction. The introduction of Contactless technology is seen as the ultimate aid to queue-busting as a result of speedy transaction times.

Barclaycard Business, one of Europe's largest acquirers and processors of plastic card transactions and Ingenico, are participating in the first phase of a national roll out of Contactless technology in the UK, which will start with a London launch in select areas involving a mix of retailers and selected cardholders.

NEW TERMINAL AT HEATHROW GETS GO AHEAD

Heathrow Airport has been given permission to build a new £6.2bn terminal. To be called Heathrow East, the new terminal will replace Terminals 1 and 2. The first phase should be ready in time for the 2012 Olympics. "I'm delighted that we've got the green light for Heathrow East," BAA chief executive Tony Douglas said.

"By June 2012, most of our passengers will be travelling through terminal facilities that aren't even open today and we will have either re-built or redeveloped all our other terminals. "Heathrow will be like a new airport for London."

Permission for the redevelopment was given by London Mayor Ken Livingstone and Hillingdon Council. The Mayor, who is determined to have clean air in London said "energy efficiency and renewables" were at the heart of the 10-year investment programme to transform the airport. "The challenges associated with climate change will define how our city develops in the coming decades," the Mayor said. "I'm very pleased we've been able

to agree a plan that puts energy efficiency and renewables at the heart of plans for a new Heathrow terminal and that we've secured a commitment to address the energy demand of the airport as a whole. The challenges associated with climate change will define how our city develops in the coming decades and, as the gateway between our city and the world, it is right that Heathrow airport leads the way in meeting those challenges."

The redevelopment includes the opening of Terminal 5 in March 2008, a refurbishment of Terminal 4 and the eventual demolition of Terminal 1 and Terminal 2. BAA chief executive Tony Douglas said: "I'm delighted that we've got the green light for Heathrow East. This is great news for passengers. By June 2012, most of our passengers will be travelling through terminal facilities that aren't even open today and we will have either re-built or redeveloped all our other terminals. Heathrow will be like a new airport for London."