



ONE TRANSPORT LAUNCHED BY RADIO TAXIS GROUP

Radio Taxis Group has launched a new travel management platform, One Transport. The system is tailored specifically to the unique requirements of corporate clients requiring improved control over their ground transport spend. It integrates the entire ground travel management requirements of a client into a single, efficient technology platform and has the flexibility to bring together a number of existing suppliers and integrate them to create a single virtual fleet.

The technology, which currently manages all of the BBC's bookings for executive vehicles, black taxis and courier services, has been developed by Radio Taxis Group and puts in place effective controls and tracking procedures for ground transport bookings by staff, whether made online or by telephone. It is available to companies throughout the UK and manages ground transportation bookings both in the UK and abroad through its network of 200 global affiliates.

One Transport offers environmental benefits as pragmatic despatch processes can be accessed to reduce dead mileage by finding the closest vehicle; offering passengers the option to cab share; as well as matching journeys both to and from key destinations resulting in lower CO2 emissions and lower costs. Jamie Hindhaugh, Head of Sourcing & Production Resources BBC, commented: "One Transport has embraced what we wanted, taken on board BBC culture and delivered something that looks really good. The

system does what it says on the tin. It has saved £1 million of licence fee money and, overall, I am very pleased with the product. Other companies need to give serious thought to investing in this kind of technology and getting rid of their back office. Costs around capture and booking should no longer be relevant. One Transport points the way to the future."

One Transport currently despatches to 8,000 vehicles in London with access to a further 3,500 throughout the UK. For clients with an international reach, the system also covers 10,000 vehicles around the world and is vendor neutral therefore ensuring that a client receives the service it requires rather than one prescribed by the supplier due to the availability of a car or taxi.

Geoffrey Riesel, CEO and Chairman of Radio Taxis Group said: "Radio Taxis Group has a proud reputation as a transport innovator. We have always sought to improve the services that we offer our customers, and with the launch of One Transport we continue to do so. One Transport will revolutionise corporate ground travel management in the UK, by providing companies with unprecedented amounts of control and information, thus saving them time and money."



BE PREPARED FOR A PLASTIC CHRISTMAS

The tills will be ringing with the sound of plastic this Christmas and more cards are being used to pay for taxi fares, say CabCard Services. This Christmas, pundits say that the public is more likely than before to pay by plastic because of the soaring number of people feeling the bite of the credit crunch. Paying by credit card delays payment until after the festive season and eases any short term cash flow problems.

From flowers to groceries, the majority of people want to use credit and debit cards to pay for everything. Taxis are no different since the introduction of CabCard, that gives passengers the convenience and security of paying for taxi fares using the new chip and PIN machine. As the party season gears up and everyone is out for a good time, they are more likely than ever to fall out of a club, pub or restaurant and into a cab without enough cash in their pocket to pay for the journey. The cab driver who can take the customer who wants to pay by plastic will be the winner.

'Cab drivers should make sure they don't miss the boat and can offer payment by card,' said Malcolm Jamieson, of CabCard Services. 'Our



cabbies have reported increased demand from the public to use CabCard as the idea of paying by card catches hold. This is set to escalate in the run up to Christmas.'

CabCard Services offers drivers complete back up support and includes a new chip & PIN hand held device that takes all debit and credit cards. It is fully accredited by UK banks and can be used anywhere because it uses the GPRS (General Packet Radio Service). The demand to use corporate cards to pay for cabs is also on the increase, said drivers who have signed up to CabCard Services. 'Corporate cards can't be used to withdraw cash, so to pay for cabs and not be out of pocket themselves (and have to wait for expenses to be paid), employees would rather use their corporate card in a CabCard taxi,' said Mr Jamieson. 'Their employers prefer it too because corporate card expenditure is cheaper to process than expenses and everyone is driving down costs wherever they can.' He added: 'Credit crunch or not, people will still celebrate Christmas and drivers should make the most of this while they can.'

RELIEF IN SIGHT FOR DRIVERS AFFECTED BY TX4 RECALL

Finally, relief may be in sight for those affected by LTI's recall and the subsequent suspension of licence by the Public Carriage Office (PCO) of all taxis suspected of being prone to the risk of under bonnet fires. No doubt once the drivers have had their suspensions lifted and are able to return to work, they can finally draw a line under the losses they have suffered as a consequence of having had their vehicles forced off the road. In some cases, this appears to have been for a period in excess of two months. Harper and Odell solicitors have taken a lead role in exploring the option of starting a class action claim with a view to seeking compensation for the losses suffered by affected drivers. They state that they are currently at the stage

of investigating the parties who may be held responsible for the losses and are in contact with several drivers with a view to determining the extent of compensation that may be claimed.

In the meantime, Harper & Odell have been added to the Multi Party Action database held by the Law Society as the first step towards initiating a class action claim. If you wish to obtain more information, please contact Mr. Uvais of Harper & Odell solicitors: by Tel: 0207 490 0500, by Email: law@harperandodell.co.uk, by fax: 0207 490 8040, through their website at: www.harperandodell.co.uk, or by post at 11113 St John Street, London EC1V 4JA.