Berlin Traffic Management Centre (DE)

Topic
Traffic Management Centre

Summary
Online travel services in Berlin began in 2000, whilst a new Traffic Management Centre was completed in 2003 at a cost of €16 million.

Case study
This was the Berlin Traffic Management Centre (VMZ Berlin), which integrates Berlin's transport into a single city centre management system for public, private and commercial transport. Mobility information is supplied to trip-makers through an internet-based intermodal route planner and can also be accessed via mobile devices. A trip-maker simply enters a selected location as their starting point or destination.

Basic facts

In addition to the intermodal route planner, a user can access the Traffic Management Centre's website for current information, including:

- The traffic situation in Berlin
- Roadworks
- Important traffic-related events
- The arrival and departure times at the three Berlin airports
- Public transport timetables
- A parking information system
- A city map service

Additional non web-based services include a meter-less parking system where users can pay by using their mobile phones. In terms of hardware, there are 50 WebCams, 2,000 traffic lights, and more than 200 infrared sensors installed at strategic locations throughout Berlin. These supply data to the central Traffic Management Centre computer which controls 22 outdoor electronic display panels and a network of existing data centres. Images shown on the display panels are updated every five minutes. The infra-red sensors were supplied and installed by Siemens, whilst DaimlerChrysler Services supplied the WebCams. The Traffic Management Centre itself was developed through a public-private partnership. The contracting authority and owner was the City-State of Berlin and the Senate Department of Urban Development, whilst construction involved DaimlerChrysler Services AG and Siemens AG. Technical components and other services were supplied by Siemens, OneStepAhead and PTV. Today the infrastructure is the property of the City-State of Berlin which supplies quality checks and provides certain data. A joint venture between DaimlerChrysler Services AG and Siemens AG was awarded the contract to operate the VMZ Berlin for ten years. Operations are carried out in partnership with Berlin transport companies, Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG) and S-Bahn Berlin GmbH. VMZ is responsible for the Traffic Management Centre concept, the set up and the content. It provides traffic information free of charge, and supplies free information to the City state of Berlin. The Traffic Management Centre was Germany's first intermodal dynamic route planning service. The data gathered by VMZ has been used to generate comprehensive traffic

information, and to enable informed management decisions designed to improve the traffic situation in Berlin.

Users and stakeholders

VMZ Berlin is a fine example of a Traffic Management Centre set up and operated through a public-private partnership, and as such makes a good study.

Implementation set-up

The following partners are the key stakeholders: the City-State of Berlin, DaimlerChrysler Services, Siemens AG, VMZ Berlin GmbH, Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG), S-Bahn Berlin GmbH. The main contractor currently is Siemens.

Future prospects

VMZ Berlin will continue to evolve in terms of deployed hardware and operational software. As reported, WebCams and infra-red sensors have already been installed at significant traffic interchanges with more to follow. Delivery of information to the public is the other area that will see developments in the future, as with the increasing popularity of mobile handset information systems and satellite navigation systems, data will soon be available to be downloaded directly onto a vehicle's navigation system or via SMS and WAP mobile phones for a subscription fee. There are no immediate planned changes to the partnership that operates the TMC.

Links
http://www.urbantransport-technology.com/projects/berlin/

City or region
Berlin
Country
Germany
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