

TECH **i**nspector



inside



P2. Elddis streamlines



P3. TT Express boosts revenue



P4. Assets without wheels

Fleet Maintenance Analytics

NEW FLEET MAINTENANCE cost analysis software allows operators to accurately analyse the productivity and efficiency of the fleet, depot, staff and suppliers, with easy to understand graphical reports.

Part of the Freeway fleet maintenance system, the analytics reveal big-picture trends with the ability to instantly drill down to the details to understand the causes of higher-than-expected costs, with costs analysed over time, per kilometre, mile or hour. Productivity can be also analysed by trade, staff and task, with comparisons across dimensions such as region, depot and time-frame.

The intuitive drag-and-drop cost analysis gives fleet managers the ability to interactively slice, dice and graph data by manipulating variables such as sub-type (clutch, tyres, etc.), make, range, model, asset type and reason (such as accident, avoidable damage, and scheduled maintenance).

KEEPING SUTTONS' FLEET ROLLING

SUTTONS GROUP is using Freeway's fleet maintenance system to coordinate its four workshops across the UK and an extensive third party repair agent network. Operating a fleet of 500 vehicles and 1,000 trailers across the UK, the software is used to schedule all the inspections, servicing, MOTs and defect repairs for Suttons' fleet of trucks, tankers and trailers based in 40 depots nationwide.

"We use Freeway to schedule workshop activities, fleet maintenance and inspection cycles, capturing costs and producing sales invoices. The recording of workshop and asset history has been very useful in our work, especially the 'recurring defect' feature that prompts the investigation for warranty and quality of workmanship," said Halime Civcar, Fleet & Compliance Manager at Suttons Tankers Ltd.

"A daily communication with Freeway uploads and populates a purchase order with all parts bought, also updating any associated job card. The automation of this process has saved time within our workshop administration team, and has also reduced input errors and speeded up invoice matching."

Patrick Tandy, Managing Director of Freeway said: *"Suttons Group has been at the forefront of new developments in fleet maintenance, and their vision has been a real driving force in the evolution of Freeway's software. We're delighted that our partnership with Suttons is continuing."*

Eddis streamlines fleet and stock management



ELDDIS TRANSPORT is using Freeway's fleet management system to coordinate its workshop activities, helping the company to ensure that its fleet complies with all inspection and maintenance regulations.

Based in the Northeast of England, Eddis uses Freeway to schedule inspections, servicing, MOTs and repairs for its fleet of 170 vehicles and 330 trailers operating out of five depots, with a workshop in Consett.

Freeway is integrated with vehicle spare parts supplier, NETS, which maintains parts on-site at the Consett depot. All imprest stock supplied by NETS is scanned when issued, and the information is imported into the Freeway job cards. Thus every part supplied is linked to a specific job card,

enabling Eddis to track which parts went into which vehicle on what date and at what cost.

Four regional depots record vehicle defects via Freeway and the information is automatically sent to Consett for workshop scheduling.

The whole automated process has enabled Eddis to eliminate the manual task of transcribing information from defect reports onto workshop job cards and purchase orders. It also means that the repair and maintenance history for all vehicles is automatically recorded.

"Through the automation afforded by Freeway's integration capabilities, we can see what each vehicle has cost us in repairs and maintenance," said Wayne White, Business Development, Eddis Transport. *"Because all the parts data is directly linked to the vehicle, we can see which parts are commonly replaced on each vehicle, and the life of each part."*

"Freeway has made life much easier for us, and has helped us to streamline our fleet maintenance procedures," added White. *"We have more traceability, and we can see exactly what work has been - or is due to be - carried out on which vehicles, and when."*

PRESTONS OF POTTO MAINTAINS FIRST-RATE FLEET

ESTABLISHED IN 1936 as an agricultural contracting business, Prestons of Potto's fleet has grown from steam engines and one lorry to an extensive up-to-date fleet operating out of three depots in West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire. The company has established itself as one of the most widely recognised road hauliers and has been voted in the all-time Top 5 UK hauliers and last year won Commercial Motor's prestigious Livery of the Year title.

To ensure its fleet remains in tip top condition, Prestons of Potto has implemented Freeway's fleet management system. *"The primary reason for selecting the Freeway system was its ease of use,"* said Andrew Walker, Accountant, Prestons of Potto. *"We needed something that would be up and running within a short time frame and didn't require a steep learning curve, and*



Freeway's system met those criteria. It's not, however, a 'simple' system in terms of the level of detailed information it provides, which helps us maintain a first class fleet."

Stephen Deighton, the company's Commercial Manager, added. *"We don't want something that is overly complicated to manage our workshop, and that's where Freeway exactly meets our needs."*

Don't risk vehicle inspection failures



TRANSPORT OPERATORS cannot risk shoddy inspection procedures, so to help them Freeway has developed a vehicle inspections app that ensures thorough, audited vehicle inspections take place. Using smartphones or tablets, the app eliminates paperwork and connects directly to the central fleet management system. The app provides structured question sets for around 40 items, and provides options for the user to record 'Not Applicable', 'Serviceable', 'No Defect', 'Defect' and 'Rectified'. Each check is automatically referenced back to the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) manual.

With vehicle engineers being guided through the inspection process, good working practice is promoted and operators are assured that stringent safety procedures are adhered to. The engineer is taken through each check with simple buttons for quick and easy data entry. If a defect is recorded, a pre-populated list drops down with options describing the nature and properties of the defect as well as valid reason codes.

Both defects and advisory items, as well as the severity level of the defect – whether critical or serviceable but should be monitored – are recorded. The engineer can also use the device to take photographs of the defect, which are saved as part of the defect report.

The data is sent to Freeway's fleet management software used in the workshop, which can trigger workshop job cards for further action. The data is also instantly available to fleet managers, engineers and inventory staff. Any work carried out and the cost thereof is also recorded. All inspection reports and repair and maintenance details are linked to the relevant vehicle's history.



BARTRUM tracks vehicle costs

SUFFOLK-BASED warehouse and distribution company, Bartrum Group, is already seeing the benefits of the Freeway fleet maintenance system and its ability to fully integrate with the company's transport management system, Mandata TMS. The integrated solution provides visibility into the availability and status of every vehicle in the fleet, as well as spare parts in stock.

TT Express unlocks workshop

OLDHAM-BASED TT EXPRESS (TTX) has implemented a fully integrated solution that links the company's transport management system, Mandata TMS, with its fleet maintenance and workshop management system, Freeway. Not only does the solution provide full visibility into the status of each vehicle in the fleet, but it has also opened up a new revenue stream by enabling TTX to accept third party vehicles into its workshop for servicing and maintenance.

"What really makes Freeway unique is its flexibility and its ability to integrate with our Mandata TMS," said Vlad Costache, General Manager, TTX. "We now have complete visibility of our entire fleet maintenance schedule from within our TMS, and, thanks to the easy to follow Traffic Light System, our Traffic Planners now know which vehicles and trailers are available to use, which are due for servicing and when. This allows them to plan ahead and ensure that vehicles/trailers are available in our workshop in time for the scheduled services. Our Operator's Licence is our most valuable asset, and the Freeway system helps us protect it and fulfil all our fleet maintenance obligations as a Transport Operator."

"It has also eliminated all communication barriers between the Traffic Operations department and the Workshop. For instance, instead of relying on Workshop staff to send email reminders about when services are due, Freeway automatically updates vehicle statuses in our TMS system and offers our Traffic Planners full visibility."

MANDATA INNOVATION

MANDATA is a market-leading provider of innovative transport management and telematics solutions. With over 40 years experience, Mandata has developed its systems in close collaboration with operators from all sectors of the transport and logistics industry to create an impressive range of fully scalable solutions, which can be customised to suit the needs of its customers.

Providing full integration across the company's entire product set, and a selection of partner systems including Freeway, Sage Accounting and all of the main Pallet Network Carriers, Mandata's centralised transport management systems allow for the smooth and continuous flow of information through the supply chain, helping hauliers to work more efficiently, and see tangible results in time and cost savings across their operations.

For more information go to www.mandata.co.uk

Since the new system automatically generates an invoice from the job cards and updates the accounting software, TTX can accept third party vehicles into its workshop for servicing, maintenance and MOT testing, with vehicle history, workshop jobs and costing charged directly to the customer's account. *"Freeway has fully transformed the way we operate and maintain our fleet, and we are looking forward to expanding the commercial vehicle servicing and repair side of our business,"* added Costache.



The Freeway-Mandata TMS link provides Bartrum with a comprehensive tool for fleet and workshop management, including scheduled maintenance and cost control. This helps to ensure each vehicle remains in first-rate condition and improves the overall efficiency of the fleet.

The integration also enables back-tracking to trace anything in the system, which, for Chief Engineer David Bumfrey, is one of Freeway's major benefits. *"Whether it's a vehicle or just a spare part, we can track it back to its origin and view its entire history,"* he said. *"We can also see exactly what each vehicle has cost us over the years."*

Freeway's "traffic light system" shows at a glance the status of every vehicle, whether it is available, due for routine maintenance, requires repairs or is unusable.

ASSETS without wheels

PATRICK TANDY, MD of Freeway, explains how software first designed for fleet management is evolving as a more general purpose asset management solution.

Freeway is best known for keeping assets moving, but is increasingly being used to manage fixed assets and infrastructure. Just because it doesn't have wheels doesn't mean that it does not need routine maintenance, require reactive maintenance in response to defects, or consume parts. Health & Safety audits also require inspections that are very similar to vehicle related first-use driver checks and detailed engineer inspections provided by the Freeway Apps platform.

Freeway's recent developments of a mobile platform - allowing engineers to record work and request parts via their smartphones - is actually perfectly suited to the management of immobile assets that cannot be brought into a workshop.

The types of items that are managed by Freeway differ across industry sectors. At highways maintenance firm FM Conway, for example, there are different sets of users; those that manage vehicles, small plant, large plant and even factories, where Freeway keeps tabs on defects and routine maintenance requirements for asphalt production facilities.

Freeway's software allows each set of users to determine their own preferred terminology, so vehicles can continue to be referenced by fleet number and registration, while buildings and associated equipment are better referenced by asset number. More than a hundred text, numeric and date fields may be tailored to each type of asset in the organisation.

At bus operator Tower Transit, users are divided between Fleet and Infrastructure (including workshops, offices and depots), and other bus users have added assets such as bus stops. Since each asset type can also be configured to show only those properties that are relevant to it, a bus stop record does not have a 'consumption' tab, for example.

Assets may also be linked together in different ways according to their type. So, trucks are 'parents' to trailers, and these in turn may be parents to tail-lifts and fridge-units, whilst buildings or factories involve different parent-child, and grandchild, relationships. This facility also automatically

calculates the fitness of a parent asset, based on the status of its subsidiary 'child' and 'grandchild' assets.

Across the organisation, different teams working independently of each other only have visibility of their assets' information; users do not see items that are not relevant to them. A workshop manager can look at his smartphone and see which vehicles are unavailable, the infrastructure manager can see the air-conditioning units that are out of service, the financial director can see all costs, and the MD can see the state of compliance across the organisation.

For the organisation, there are tremendous benefits from a single system that can manage a consolidated set of cost data, with a common defect management, routine maintenance and procurement process.

NEW FACES



To meet the growing demand for Freeway's software, the company has recruited some extra business development support from fleet technology expert Phil Murphy. Murphy runs WISE Procurement, a successful advisory and procurement consultancy specialising in on-board and mobile technology. WISE has been appointed as an Authorised Partner of Freeway, and as well as providing a point of contact for anyone interested in Freeway software, the partnership will give Freeway customers access to specialist advice into other technologies such as mobile devices, communications, cameras and telematics.

Freeway MD Patrick Tandy (pictured with Phil Murphy on the right) said. "We've appointed Phil to help support the expansion of our UK business. In the last year there has been high demand for Freeway's software following the launch of our range of mobile apps. In addition, Phil has a lot of knowledge in complementary technologies that he can advise on and supply through WISE Procurement, which compares the market for the best deals for fleet operators."

Managing parts with NETS

NETS is a supplier of commercial vehicle parts with a successful 40+ year track record. NETS' all-makes parts program, covering truck and van, is focused on providing cost savings on dealer parts. The parts supplier has developed a mobile app called NETS Connect, which can be used in external stores management situations and can be integrated with customers' own IT vehicle fleet management systems such as Freeway.

Freeway integrates with NETS and when items are scanned out of stores the NETS System is automatically populated with data from the Freeway job card. This immediately links the part to a job and in turn ID data such as the vehicle registration number. This ensures traceability of every stock item and allows data to be gathered on the performance of parts against fleet information such as vehicle type and utilisation. In turn, NETS allows easy, automatic stock control and replenishment backed by clear, auditable records from issue to replacement.

Making a WISE Camera Choice



Recently WISE has undertaken installations of the latest 3G road safety cameras. Designed to reduce risk and improve safety through live monitoring of journeys and instantaneous recording of incidents, the 3G cameras offer Europe-wide roaming, risk management, FNOL, insurance claims management, and driver behaviour reports.

WISE MD Phil Murphy explained why their range of 3G, instant notification cameras, are proving so popular with transport operators, drivers and insurance brokers alike. "The first generation of vehicle cameras were very useful in providing evidence in the event of a collision or near-miss. However, these cameras typically relied solely on SD cards with footage having to be downloaded long after an incident, back at the depot. The new 3G cameras offer live data transmission with footage being sent within seconds via email, so all parties can view the evidence immediately."