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CCTV monitoring system on public transport in Lodz (Poland)

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Topic:

Collective passenger transport

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Description

The main public transport operator in Lodz has signed a contract for the installation of CCTV monitoring systems on vehicles, at stops and terminals. The aim is to improve the safety of travelling on buses and trams.

Background & Objectives

One of the duties of the public transport operator is assurance of safety for the passengers travelling on its buses and trams. To improve the quality of the service in regards to security, Lodz Public Transport authority decided to install CCTV monitoring systems at both stops as well as on the vehicles.

Implementation

The aim of the project is to improve passengers' safety on city public transport in Lodz by CCTV monitoring system installation. The project is co-financed by the Regional Operational Programme (RPO) of the Lodzkie Voivodeship for the years 2007-2013 and is 3.7 million PLN (ca. 1 million euro) worth. 85% of the sum is financed by the Voivodeship Marshal Office.

The plan of the project is to install 1,264 CCTV camera on 183 vehicles and 20 other video cameras installed on selected stops and terminals. The system is operated from a dedicated monitoring centre. On some vehicles there are extra cameras on the outside of the vehicle, either on the front or on the back. Each unit system consists of 6 to 7 CCTV cameras.

A special procedure has been implemented for when a passenger informs the centre about an incident that happened on the PT vehicle or one of the stops or terminals.>The notification of any

incidents can be done by phone or by SMS. In the case of a short message the description has to include identification number of the vehicle and the kind of incident (for example no. 12345, vandalism). The observing centre can get the views from all the cameras in the system in real time. The views can also be forwarded to city guards or police.

The announcements are encouraging passengers to react as it is the quickest way to achieve a quick reaction from the right services. Additionally there is a GPS unit on every vehicle, which allows to automatically locate the incident and, if needed, send the proper services to the exact location. As all the views from the CCTV cameras are recorded they can be used as the proof material for the legal procedures.

The system has also a function of informing the driver if someone is trying to cover or damage one of the cameras. When starting the engine, the driver receives an automatic confirmation that all the cameras function right.

The contract was signed in May 2011 and it was completed at the end of October.

Conclusions

The CCTV monitoring system has improved security on buses and trams of Lodz. In the first 3 months of functioning, no dangerous incident was recorded. The new system is much more efficient than any of systems that has been applied in the past on some vehicles. The best advantage is possibility to receive on-line real-time picture from any camera in the system.

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