

Information Note
31 October 2008

Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development
On-Board Trucker Information System (OBTIS)

Introduction

At the meeting on 24 October 2008, a member requested that the Government provide more information on the major features of OBTIS. This paper sets out the requested information and the latest development of the project.

Major Features

2. To encourage the logistics industry to employ e-logistics solutions and to improve the information connectivity among truckers and other stakeholders, the Government, with the support of the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council (LOGSCOUNCIL), has sponsored the proposal of the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) to conduct a pilot project on OBTIS. A Steering Committee has been formed under LOGSCOUNCIL to spearhead the project.

3. OBTIS is an information exchange and communications technology platform that enables relevant stakeholders along the supply chain to exchange information concerning truck cargo transportation. It comprises a fully featured mobile office installation on board trucks and a back-end platform. Key features have been designed with the input of representatives from major stakeholders such as the trucking cargo industry, and include the followings:

- (a) The mobile office installation comprises a 7-inch full colour visual display unit with built-in processor operating on Microsoft Windows Mobile, a Global Positioning System with dead reckoning, wireless communication facilities, a mini-printer, a fax printer, a bar-code scanner, an e-seal reader, a digital camera and an emergency rescue alarm.
- (b) The back-end platform offers truckers and trucking companies with such features and functions as news and information dissemination, fleet management, tracking and tracing, job dispatch, job handover, e-documentation applications and printing.
- (c) Systems of key stakeholders such as the container and air terminal operators may also have a direct interface with OBTIS. This will allow truckers to enjoy additional features and functions as information and message exchange with terminals, booking of facilities and equipment, pre-arrival notice to terminals for cargo collection and delivery, pre-arrival document exchange and simplification of terminal gate-in procedures.

Latest Development

4. The project has entered into the proof-of-concept stage since February 2008, which involves the installation of OBTIS on 60 trucks to test its basic features. Based on the findings at the proof-of-concept stage, the project will be expanded to include 500 trucks in total to test its integrated functions in early 2009.

5. In parallel, HKPC is working with the container and air terminal operators to connect OBTIS with their systems with a view to enhancing the functionalities, thus attractiveness, of OBTIS. The feedback is positive and good progress has been made. The Steering Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the project.

***Transport and Housing Bureau
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