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If you are a business owner or a proprietor and has a fleet of lorries and trucks to manage in order to send your products to a whole list of destinations correctly and on time, what would you do?

It could be a logistical nightmare with a lot of paperwork that could be lost along the way not to mention the more costly risk of products being lost on transit. Tempers may fray, insurance companies may not make full coverage of the lost shipment due to negligence and the list of headaches could go on.

What if, you have a system that tracks and monitors your fleet movement no matter what time of the day it is, rain or shine? That provides accurate information and requires much less paperwork to deal with; just a print out copy when necessary. Isn't that one thing less to worry about in the chaos of running a daily business?

Well such a system is already here and it is home grown with a lot of local expertise to back it up. It is called QuantumTrac Vehicle Tracking System.

It can be considered a significant local achievement when a group of in-house Software Developers, GIS (Geographic Information System) experts, Network Engineers and R and D Scientists from Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (Sains) managed to develop a high grade vehicle tracking system tailored to local needs.

Very few companies in Malaysia could develop a tracking software let alone a full end-to-end system that provides 24x7 Call Centre service support to the Hardware and Devices, Software and GIS maps as well as Communications Network and Satellite technology.

"We spent two years developing the system through our in-house team of software developers, engineers and scientists. The whole system is tailor designed and developed with the Malaysian, especially Sarawak, users in mind" said Sains CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Teo Tien Hiong.

"The one component that we do not build in the system is the tracking device. We ordered them custom manufactured to our specific requirements and conditions so that we can better maintain and support it," he said.

By closely monitoring and recording the movements of vehicles, QuantumTrac can be used to ensure that drivers do not misbehave or abuse their vehicles.

This is particularly useful in tracking the time taken to travel between locations. The system also eliminates messy discrepancies and disputes when it comes to employee claims on fuel consumption.

The QuantumTrac system utilises GPS (Global Positioning System) to accurately pinpoint vehicle locations and relate them with real time tracking, using comprehensive user-friendly

web based application tools.

The system also has a smart event-based feature whereby it allows alarm triggering and alert notifications via mobile phones or emails whenever certain predetermined events occur.

Using a notebook computer or even a web-enabled PDA, a user can monitor the movements of his or her company's fleet of vehicles simultaneously. Drivers can also be detected and directed if they move beyond certain boundaries or if they stray from the pre-defined routes.

The daily activities of each vehicle can be stored and statistical reports generated for route analysis, resource scheduling and resolving disputes.

"The cost of the system to a user depends on the service packages. There are two general categories. A user can either buy the device outright and pay for its monthly usage or opt for a renting model that includes the monthly subscription rate," said Teo adding that the subscription rate could be as low as RM2 a day.

He added that the one big advantage of buying the system from Sains is that the Company is local and they can be assured of sustained support for the system. Sains also continuously improve the system to meet changing customer needs.

"We are actually looking for resellers for the system to enhance our marketing it through them. Interested business partners are encouraged to contact Sains," he said.

Current list of customers includes, Sibü Municipal Council, Trans Standard International Sdn Bhd (Selangor), Jaring Metal Industries Sdn Bhd (Selangor), Biaramas Express Sdn Bhd (Kuching), FICA Sdn Bhd (Johor), Tang Eng-Le Trading & Transport Sdn Bhd (Johor), Kuching Water Board and Sing Chew Coldstorage Sdn Bhd.

A recent addition to the customer list is Syn Yong Fatt Sdn Bhd, a company which deals with consumer products. The company has 1,200 customers from different parts of Sarawak such as Kuching, Sri Aman and Samarahan delivering products such as packet drinks, imported milk powders and bottled mineral water.

The company has five lorries and three vans to deliver these products to its customers where it could be time consuming when the area being covered is huge. In a business that relies on the road to transport their products, timely and accurate information for fleet management is crucial.

Since December 2008, when Syn Yong Fatt began using the QuantumTrac system, the company has been able to substantially slash the cost of its delivery business activities.