



Press release

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APLICOM VEHICLE COMPUTERS KEEP A BIRDS EYE ON FRIGOSCANDIA REFRIGERATED TRAILERS

Compact and powerful Aplicom vehicle computers are helping to keep vital checks on the fleet of Frigoscandia Distribution's refrigerated trailers operating at the Birds Eye Walls frozen food distribution hub in Birmingham, England.

Each computer provides data on all trailer activities away from the hub – including door openings and temperature controls. Major faults are transmitted real time back to the office whereas minor 'Exceptions', where data is different to normal or expected, are triggered as the trailer enters a depot. Audible and visible alarms alert the transport operators that all is not well.

The core benefits, says Frigoscandia Transport Operations Manager Paul Kitching, are that we know at all times where our trailers are, should faults occur they can be corrected before any serious damage is done and data for the driver and the company is stored and protected.

Communications software, hardware configuring and fitting to the trailer, as well as maintenance is carried out by SMART Ltd, a UK-based 'systems partner' of Aplicom of Finland.

The compact Aplicom ICA1004 computer, just 108mm x 113mm x 40mm, has a 16MHz central processor. Connected to a 12 channel GPS module it receives and transmits data via four RS232 ports, which can be connected to door alarms and refrigerator controls. Where the customer questions a delivery or product quality, the data is archived for up to 1,000 miles prior to download and can be replayed on a map to accurately track the vehicle's route and timing.

Frigoscandia Distribution is operating a fleet of over 36 articulated trailers with the Aplicom computers and has just taken delivery of a further 16 Aplicom units for new trailers. It is anticipated that the computers and communication systems will be integrated into the remaining rigid vehicles in the Frigoscandia fleet in the next few months.

All trailers communicate with the hub using the GSM network and trailers can now be accessed direct via the internet. No specialist software is required for street level positional accuracy.

Frigoscandia Distribution is also developing, through SMART Ltd, additional software that will introduce real-time delivery performance data gathered automatically and linked directly to the office computer network. Alarms covering the status of the refrigeration units, un-authorized door openings and potential late deliveries can be automatically reported while the vehicle is on the road, and problems solved before there are any consequences.

Aplicom

Aplicom is the leading manufacturer of professional IT systems within vehicles in Europe. The Finnish-owned Aplicom designs and produces technologically advanced, fully programmable computer hardware for the vehicle environment, compatible with all recognised software systems, and which accommodate bespoke software packages.

Over 90 percent of Aplicom's products are exported. Aplicom's products are used by, among others, Schenker-BTL, DaimlerChrysler, many drivers' associations in Central Europe, the Norwegian Post, rural bus services and several ambulance trusts in the UK.

With Aplicom's products, companies can link vehicles into their information system. Their service improves and fleet management becomes more effective, which enhances their competitiveness in the market. A vehicle computer adds to safety and makes better following of vehicles' movements and condition possible.

Aplicom's research and development unit and the production department are located in Äänekoski, Finland. Selling and marketing functions are carried out in Helsinki, Finland.