



Relay Box provides greater control

The new Relay Box has been specially developed to allow Microbus Mobile Computer users more integrated control of their vehicle equipment including emergency lights and radios. Using a DIDO connection to the computer, the box provides a total of 8 relays, capable of switching up to 30A.

The box's terminal spades allow easy connection and software control allows a multitude of switching configurations based on external control, ignition, battery power, or both ignition and battery power. For example, the relay software could be configured to switch on the emergency lights if the battery becomes low to notify the user should they be away from the vehicle. Although this technology has been initially developed for the police market, the relay box could provide vehicle equipment control for a range of applications.

Lancashire Police use Microbus and Airwave for TETRA-based mobile data

In a new co-operative endeavour, Traffic Officers and the Information & Communications Technology Department at Lancashire Constabulary are using Microbus M-PC Mobile PCs to obtain vehicle and personal data from the Police National Computer via the new Airwave⁽¹⁾ (TETRA) service. Due to the greatly reduced response times, officers are requesting information in circumstances where voice radio requests would have been impractical. Information relating to matters such as outstanding arrest warrants has already demonstrated the value of the facility.

The Microbus M-PCs are installed in a number of traffic cars and in addition to being used for data access, Lancashire Constabulary is also using them to display Shark Automatic Number Plate

Recognition output, pictures downlinked from the Police Helicopter, TRACKER output and T.V.I.S. data in both text and picture formats. Video output from Traffic Law Enforcement Devices and Force Intranet access may be added at a later date without any need to upgrade the M-PCs. "Providing officers with access to timely, relevant information on appropriate, reliable devices is a key requirement within almost all areas of modern policing," said Stuart Fillingham, Head of ICT. "We have been impressed by the technical ability, reliability and level of support provided by Microbus".

⁽¹⁾Airwave is the UK replacement terrestrial trunked radio system (TETRA) developed for use by the Police and other government services.



New screen for mobile office solution

The new 15 inch XGA TFT monitor from Microbus Mobile Data has been designed specifically as a secondary screen for vehicle use; particularly in response to police market requirements to equip incident vehicles with complete mobile office facilities. Operating from the vehicle's 12V supply, the screen offers full brightness control via a control menu integrated into the screen surround and features built-in stereo speakers. The screen's touchscreen function can be utilised when connected to a serial channel and can be operated by a gloved finger.

The screen benefits from VESA-compatible mounts but can be converted into a rugged desktop solution with the optional stand. The screen has full e Mark certification.

ANPR, Enforcement Video, Mapping, CAD, PNC access and now TRACKER

Microbus Mobile Data is delighted to announce that it has developed a new mobile data application in partnership with TRACKER (UK) Networks Ltd. The TRACKER system's information is available as yet another option on the Microbus Mobile PC's touchscreen. Police users of Microbus and TRACKER equipment have the ability to track stolen vehicles without the need for a separate display. The requirement was identified by TRACKER to optimise the use of the limited available space within police vehicles. The onscreen data accurately replicates the standard visor mounted display's indicators thus avoiding any need to retrain experienced TRACKER users.

The software incorporates the usual visual and audible indications of direction and signal strength; can be switched between two current alerts; and has a smoothing algorithm to minimise the effects of "bounced" signals. TRACKER (UK) Networks Ltd have been involved throughout the design and test phases of the project. John Neaverson of TRACKER said, "We confidently expect that this enhancement to both our products will result in even more stolen vehicles being recovered and further increase the number of vehicle theft related arrests."

To date 10,928 stolen vehicles worth £190.6m have been reclaimed by the police thanks to TRACKER, resulting in 1544 related arrests.



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