VIRTUAL BRAIN KEEPS TOP-END WAGONS SAFE AND SECURE

THE PROBLEM

Scanvogn Australia sells rugged mobile wagons that provide mining and engineering companies with mobile offices, accommodation and amenity units in some of Australia's most remote locations.

With some of the wagons worth $100,000 or more, it was important for both Scanvogn and the purchasers of the vehicles to be able to monitor their mobile assets both while in transit and onsite.

GRIDTRAQ Vehicle Tracking and Fleet Management Australia was asked to design a machine-to-machine (M2M) solution to monitor and control systems in mobile wagons sold by Scanvogn. The solution had to provide Scanvogn and the wagon owner with operational visibility regarding their location whenever they wanted, while also providing alerts on any events that mattered to them, such as maintenance and security issues.

THE SOLUTION

GRIDTRAQ Vehicle Tracking and Fleet Management Australia developed its purpose built GRIDTRAQ ASSETRAQ remote monitoring and control solution and integrated it to work with the wagons' on-board sensors.

To carry the data from the wagon to GRIDTRAQ's comprehensive online web portal, hosted at their 'A' Grade server in Port Melbourne, Victoria, they partnered with Telstra to incorporate the Wireless M2M Control Centre solution. Telstra's M2M Control Centre uses Telstra's world-class Next G® network, covering more land area than any other wireless network carrier in Australia.

Using the online platform, owners and Scanvogn can set up alerts from ASSETRAQ on the events that matter to them most when in transit or on location. This could include when and how the wagon is being towed, if water tanks need to be replenished, if here has been a security breech or when a part needs replacing, tyres need rotating or a service is required.

THE RESULTS

Thanks to the Telstra M2M Control Centre, the GRIDTRAQ ASSETRAQ solution can remotely monitor the wagons and 'talk' back to the customers and Scanvogn via the GRIDTRAQ Web Portal without human intervention. Using the M2M Control Centre platform enables both the owner and Scanvogn to check data around the clock and receive alerts when the wagon is in a Telstra network coverage area.

For Scanvogn's customers, this means that can have peace-of-mind that their wagon is secure and know exactly when it's time for an on-site service, instead of having to make unnecessary service trips, which can prove expensive. As a result, some owners are reporting savings of up to 15 per cent on travel time, wear and tear on tyres and insurance. This can equate to $40,000 over the life of a service vehicle. The monitoring system is also used by Scanvogn to ensure the wagon is being used in line with their warranty policy.

IT'S HOW
WE CONNECT

M2M TECHNOLOGY ALERTING ON MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY

Designing intelligent solutions to keep expensive vehicles and equipment safe and secure is bread and butter for GRIDTRAQ, the Telematics Division of Melbourne company Directed Electronics Australia.

GRIDTRAQ operate more than 60,000 SIM cards throughout Australia and South Africa, mainly in machine-to-machine (M2M) applications for fleet management logistics and vehicle security. Customers range from large fleet vehicle to suburban owner operators like plumbers.

As they are at the cutting edge of telematics, GRIDTRAQ was the first company mobile wagon producer Scanvogn turned to for a solution to give them and their customers greater control and visibility of their wagons when in transit or on-site.

Scanvogn's self-contained wagons are used by some of Australia's biggest mining and construction companies at remote sites. They are close to a complete solution when it comes to portable amenities, with configurations for accommodation, toilet and bathroom blocks and onsite offices.

With some wagons worth $100,000 or more, monitoring time spent on-site, safe towing in transit and the status of onboard systems were prerequisites for the customer and Scanvogn alike. For the Scanvogn owners, knowing their mobile assets are safe, secure and being maintained to the highest standard is critical.

GRIDTRAQ Business Development Manager Dylan Hartley said: "These wagons were already sophisticated and robust pieces of engineering excellence. This was like being asked to create an intelligent hub or brain that allowed the operator to connect remotely to the vehicle.

"They are towed in and out of sites by four-wheel drives, often over rugged terrain, and they can operate in some unforgiving climates. Their specialised nature and facilities means that they need regular service.

"For example, if a generator runs low on fuel or an ablution unit needs water or siphoning, the owner needs to know.

"Sending a service vehicle can mean an arduous and expensive round trip. Accurate and reliable monitoring that doesn't add to on-site staff workload is a must."

GRIDTRAQ recommended the purpose-built GRIDTRAQ ASSETRAQ remote monitoring and control solution. Its in-house R & D team built an application to integrate it with existing onboard sensors. Telstra's Wireless M2M Control Centre was put forward to manage the connectivity services supporting the solution. M2M Control Centre uses Telstra's world-class Next G® network, which covers more land area than any other wireless network carrier in Australia. This is crucial in remote solutions such as ASSETRAQ.

The M2M Control Centre carries up-to-the minute data to GRIDTRAQ's comprehensive online web portal - hosted at GRIDTRAQ's 'A' Grade server in Port Melbourne, Victoria. Owners and Scanvogn can choose to receive specific trigger alerts from ASSETRAQ on key events.

This could include when and how the wagon is being towed, if water tanks need to be replenished, if there has been a security breach or when a part needs replacing, tyres need rotating or a full service is required.

"Scanvogn's customers have peace-of-mind that their asset is secure and that they know exactly when it's time to despatch a service - because their wagons tell them," Dylan said.

"Not only are they maintaining a safer working environment, they're reporting savings of up to 15 per cent on travel time, wear and tear on tyres and insurance. This can equate to $40,000 over the life of a service vehicle."

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