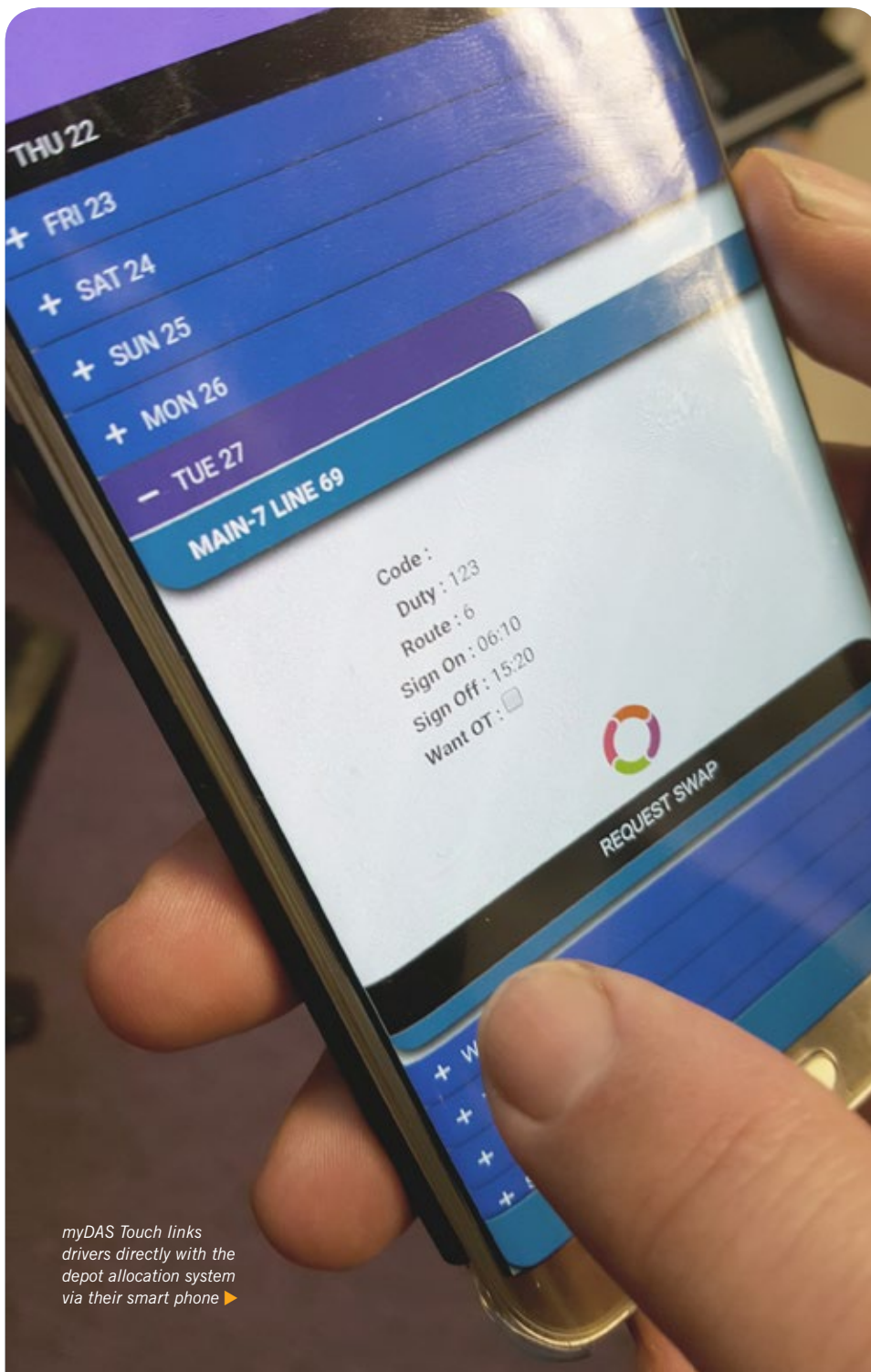


## New drivers' App is Pure Gold

Coach & Bus Live at the NEC was the first time Omnibus had shown its latest innovation to anyone outside of the company – and it had an excellent reception.



myDAS Touch links drivers directly with the depot allocation system via their smart phone ►

myDAS Touch is the latest development in the OmniDAS driver self-service module and it links drivers directly with the depot allocation system via their smart phone.

myDAS Touch allows allocation staff to send out notices direct to drivers, informing them of shift changes, route changes or offers of overtime. The software delivers the messages in real time and shows whether the driver has received and seen it.

Drivers can access all their own details, including rota and holiday details, from their phone. Drivers can use the myDAS Touch app, or the company intranet, to view their upcoming shifts, used and available holidays, and hours worked. They can also submit requests for holidays, shift swaps and overtime.

Peter Crichton, Managing Director of Omnibus, comments: "We were very excited to launch myDAS Touch at Coach & Bus Live. It was the ideal event to demonstrate the many benefits of this new application and we could see people's eyes light up as they realised the potential that it has for their operations. Not only will it make depot allocators' lives a whole lot easier, but it will give drivers a greater level of control over their own shifts and personal information."

He continues: "myDAS Touch will give drivers easier access to their own data and enable them to communicate with their depot from wherever they are. The driver no longer needs to be at the depot to see what is going on at work, it is all there with one touch on their phone. myDAS Touch will also release allocation staff from everyday questions and the administration of driver requests, leaving them free to concentrate on getting drivers on buses."

# A vintage bus and a state of the art App at Coach & Bus Live 2015

Omnibus made quite an impact at Coach & Bus Live, with a vintage bus, a brand new look, and a brand new app.



▲ The 1962 Routemaster almost stole the show at Coach & Bus Live

The company chose Coach & Bus Live 2015 to launch its latest innovation - myDAS Touch – and customers and prospective customers were unanimous in their agreement that this new drivers' App would be an invaluable tool in depot allocation. For more details see our in-depth article on the front page.

Omnibus also used the event to launch its new brand image and the Omnibus stand featured a 1962 Routemaster adorned with the new logo and silver decals to commemorate Omnibus's 25 years in the industry.

Peter Crichton, Managing Director of Omnibus, comments: "As you might imagine, the Routemaster almost stole the show, with lots of selfies being taken on the rear platform and one enthusiast painting an incredible watercolour. We were also delighted at the response that myDAS Touch received. Firstly everyone was blown away by the simplicity of the system and then excited when they realised its endless possibilities."

## McGill's aims for the full set

With the purchase of OmniMAP and OmniSTOP, McGill's has the complete suite of Omnibus products ▼

McGill's is Scotland's largest independent operator. It is an ambitious company and continues to grow at a rapid pace. With this in mind, the company recently took the decision to add to its existing Omnibus products of OmniTIMES, OmniBASE and Crewplan with the purchase of OmniMAP and OmniSTOP.



Tom Cairns, Commercial Manager for McGill's explains: "Our software needed to keep pace with our expansion as we simply needed more help with things like mapping. We currently have one person managing our mapping function and adding OmniMAP will really help them."

Like many independent operators, the company had previously been using Excel for systems such as bus stop displays. In order to improve and support the way the company promotes its services, McGill's has now added OmniSTOP.

Because McGill's now has a range of Omnibus solutions, the company has also

added the file management system OmniMAN to centralise all programs and automatically back up critical data. Tom explains its need: "We operate from several locations and many people need access to our operational data, so OmniMAN will simplify access to our information across all sites."

McGill's has used Omnibus software for many years and, as Tom explains, when considering new software it was an obvious choice to stick with Omnibus: "The Omnibus team is fantastic to work with. You can call them up and get instant help with anything – nothing is too trivial for them to deal with."

As McGill's continues to grow, Tom is already looking ahead. He is currently considering adding two more Omnibus products, OmniDAS for driver and vehicle allocation and OmniROTA to improve rota efficiencies, which will mean that McGill's has the complete Omnibus suite of products.

"We currently use Excel for our depot allocation, which leaves a lot open to interpretation. I had used OmniDAS in a previous role and found it to be a useful tool. It leaves no grey areas, so it is ideal for us," concludes Tom.



# Heathrow Bus service gets the Omni treatment

▲ Omnibus software assists with the precise scheduling skills required for Heathrow's unique and extremely busy bus transfers

Omnibus's namesake OmniServ provides bus services transferring passengers across all four of Heathrow's active Terminals. It is a unique and extremely busy environment, requiring precise scheduling skills for the 26 vehicles and 100 drivers.

Previously, all schedules had been created manually, a task that used to take Assistant Operations Manager Paul Rodrigues up to three weeks to complete. That was before the company installed OmniTIMES, OmniBASE and Crewplan.

"Now things are very different," says Paul. "When I have to create new schedules now it just takes me a couple of days, freeing up my time to work on other areas of our operations."

The systems were installed earlier this year, in time for the busy summer holiday season. Paul was delighted with how everything went. He explains: "Omnibus were absolutely brilliant. Everything went fantastically well and the team continues to provide us with excellent support."

Omniserv is the European Division of Air Serv Corporation, providing a range of services to over 100 airports globally. The company specialises in passenger services, airline and airport security, baggage and cargo handling and cleaning services.

Route	Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12	0702 0832 1002 1132 1302 1432 1602 1732	0732 0902 1032 1202 1332 1502 1632 1802	0802 0932 1102 1232 1402 1532 1702 1832
13	0622 0752 0922 1052 1222 1352 1522 1652 1822 2002	0752 0922 1052 1222 1352 1522 1652 1822 2152	0822 0952 1122 1252 1422 1552 1722 1952 2252
15	0852 1052 1252 1452 1652 1852 2052 2252	0952 1152 1352 1552 1752 1952 2152	

## OMNISTOP GETS A MAKE-OVER

▲ The new version of OmniSTOP is giving Blackpool Transport more flexibility in creating bus stop displays

Omnistop, Omnibus's software for creating instant and eye-catching bus stop displays, has had a radical make-over. In fact, it is now a whole new program, written by Omnibus developers to replace the current Omnistop.

Amongst the many advances over the current version is a built-in template editor. This now allows users to create their own styles and custom paper sizes, with full control over what fonts, font sizes and graphics they want to use in the various elements of the display. There is also now a built-in PDF creator.

Many of the options that required manual intervention in the previous incarnation of Omnistop are now automatic processes, particularly with regard to generating route diagrams.

Although it is still under development, Omnistop 2 is currently on trial at Blackpool Transport. Chris Shaw, Network Planner for Blackpool Transport, has been using it: "It is even more user friendly than before and allows us to develop our displays and be more diverse with new designs. We can now add in extra features such as advertising, so it is much more adaptable," he says.

# Tower Transit chooses Omnibus for new Singapore operation



Tower Transit, with over 2,000 staff and 650 buses operating in London on behalf of TfL and in Cambridge, has used Omnibus software in the UK for some time. When the company won the contract to operate a new service in Singapore, Omnibus was the first choice for the software.

As part of the company's current expansion plans, Tower Transit has won the first bus operating contract tendered by the LTA for 26 routes from the new Bulim Bus Depot in Singapore, involving 367 vehicles and over 900 members of staff. The company is currently setting up its operations ready for the first services to start running in the second quarter of 2016.

Tower Transit will be using the same software that the company uses in the UK, which includes OmniTIMES, OmniBASE, OmniROTA and OmniMAN.

Service Performance Manager for Tower Transit Singapore, Daryl Lim, recently

attended a five day orientation programme on the use of the scheduling software at Omnibus's headquarters in Oldham. He says: "Omnibus is an easy to use scheduling software that will address our scheduling needs at a lower cost. As someone with no prior experience with Omnibus, I found the software easy to pick up, especially with the Wizard feature that guides you on a step by step approach in generating a set of working timetables. The software also allows users to generate reports automatically which is also useful. With my previous working experience on other scheduling software, I found Omnibus equally capable and efficient."

▲ (Above) Tower Transit is currently setting up its operations ready for the first services in Singapore to start running in the second quarter of 2016

Operations and Transition Manager, Stuart Thomas, comments: "At Tower Transit Singapore we have chosen to use Omnibus software for all our bus scheduling requirements. From our previous experience using the software within Tower Transit in the UK it is perfectly suited to our needs in developing our timetables and staff shifts. Being flexible and easy to use, as well as reasonably priced, the Omnibus software package provides the capability to deliver efficiencies in the scheduling of our timetables."

## CONTACT

Omnibus  
Hollinwood Business Centre  
Albert Street, Hollinwood  
Oldham, OL8 3QL  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)161 683 3100  
[www.omnibus.uk.com](http://www.omnibus.uk.com)

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