



Reports: solved

How many man-hours does it take to compile reports that identify where resources have been deployed over the last week or month? And what about correlating those reports with incident hot spots? Jose Maria Sanchez de Muniain finds out about a new product that turns a process that has traditionally taken hours into mere minutes. Welcome the Inca Reports.

Readers may already be acquainted with APD's INCA and INCA 2 solutions, a GPS tracking device used extensively in fleet management, and which acts as a single pipe to the outside world by facilitating dual-bearer capability TETRA/GPRS (amongst others).

The latest launch is about data management, however, and not about physically tracking assets. INCA Reports is a software tool that allows the easy manipulation of the tracking data provided by INCA (or other) devices.

At the core of the new software is efficiency and productivity – the new drivers of today's economic environment. The tool is being regarded by APD as particularly useful to police forces on two fronts, firstly to ascertain best asset management, and secondly, to help fulfil the Policing Pledge. Dayne Wilkinson, Development Manager at APD Communications, explains more: "INCA Reports allows you to look at data in a slightly different way. Where historically you would have had analysts pouring over the data to produce meaningful reports, this will alleviate all of that. It is also a tool to help prove that police forces are making the best of the assets they have."

Amongst other things, INCA Reports allows the quick production of vehicle(s) activity and journey reports, either in tabular formats or on a map. Map reports e.g. of a town centre, can be quickly produced that display all vehicles and resources on the map. They can be filtered down to street level and even date and time. "It helps to answer questions such as, 'do we have enough resources in this region?', or 'can we provide proof that we are making the best of the assets we have?'" says Wilkinson.

The GeoFiltering allows sophisticated location-based reporting, for example, it is possible to ascertain asset and

vehicle usage in a particular area over the last four weeks. "This is the perfect tool to prove that the police are patrolling certain regions," adds Wilkinson.

INCA Reports is currently being trialled by Norfolk Constabulary and a Local Authority who is particularly interested in potential gritting-related analysis. While at the moment it is not possible to marry historical asset tracking data with incident hotspots, this, believes Wilkinson, is where the future lies. "The force we are working with has already identified this as a future goal. Currently we only offer this on assets but obviously the future is open as far as importing new layers of data such as incidents."

The feedback so far, says Wilkinson, has been positive particularly with regards to resource savings. "The force produces a report which takes two man-days per month. Using the new system it takes ten minutes after clicking a button – from that point of view the feedback has been fantastic." The technology can also be used to track bobbies on the beat, as long as they have radios that incorporate Automatic Person Location Systems (APLS) technology.

"It can help provide a clear and transparent line of communications with the public, as per the policing pledge. One of the things we identified is measuring the time that is taken out of patrolling a beat, and this system gives the ability to track how much time is spent in a police station, how much time is spent crossing over boundaries to other forces. This can be visualised, showing how many man-hours are wasted per week on – for example – paperwork."

Although the system was originally developed for INCA data, a translation layer has been written so forces that have a different data capturing system may still be able to benefit from INCA Reports.



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