

GCNet was established in Ghana in 2000 as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP); its mandate is to deploy and support two linked IT Systems: TradeNet and Ghana Customs Management System (GCMS). TradeNet is an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for the exchange of electronic documentation between trade operators. GCMS is a modern management system for Customs, Excise and Preventive Service.

GC Net currently processes a wide variety of trade related documents including: Manifests, Customs Declarations, Import Declaration Forms, Permits, Exemptions, Transit Bonds, Final Classification and Valuation Reports, Delivery Order and Customs Releases.

geographic area served

Ghana

challenge

Active promotion of Ghanaian Transit Corridor in fulfilment of the Governments stated aim of becoming the "Gateway to West Africa" had caused a huge increase in transit trade between 1999 (108,000 tonnes) and 2006 (705,000 tonnes). This had posed significant monitoring and control challenges to Ghana Customs Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS). In 2006 GCNet and CEPS launched the i-Transit Project, this aimed to replace traditional, manual controls that have proven cumbersome and largely ineffectual with a modern IT-based solution.

As part of the i-Transit Project a decision was made to deploy a satellite tracking solution. This would be required to track all transit vehicles during their journey along the designated transit corridors giving CEPS the ability to intervene in cases where high risk behaviour was detected. An average of 2,500 vehicles would be tracked per month.

requirements

GCNet's requirements were for rugged, autonomous tracking unit that could be quickly attached and detached from transit vehicle without the need for complex wiring into the vehicles electrical system. The concept was to remove the need for individual truck owners to purchase expensive units and keep the operating costs to a minimum by efficiently re-using units. The unit would furthermore be required to operate in areas of poor communications and across a wide geographical area - potentially encompassing not only Ghana but the whole West African Sub-region.

solution

After a long period of assessment the TAM-200 and end to end Satamatics solution was deemed the most suitable. It is a simple place-on-and-leave terminal that has built in battery power so eliminating the need for an external power supply. This coupled with a sophisticated secure web based application makes deployment flexible and simple for border staff. It also allows a range of customizable reports to be available at the touch of a button.

Satamatics worked closely with GCNet to achieve a desired solution to meet their requirements. This jointly developed solution is fully integrated and working seamlessly with the other GCNet systems so helping to support the Government of Ghana's Government's commitment to the modernisation of systems, processes and procedures with regard to transit Ghanaian traffic.

results

- Cargo diversion risk mitigation in support of CEPS revenue generation efforts
- Provides visibility to all transit vehicles operating in Ghana
- Sophisticated tracking portal containing transaction specific information and permitting rights-based information sharing with surrounding customs administrations and selected private sector operators
- Part of a comprehensive technological solution to enable the removal of cumbersome manual procedures and hence facilitate trade
- Enhanced co-operation with mobile teams to ensure early, effective interventions where necessary
- Support for governments ongoing efforts to develop transit trade

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