

# Integrating data with managing

**Few computer systems are capable of integrating fleet data to the extent where you can manage the entire business, not just fleet operating costs.**

by Anselm Waterfield



**T**here are several systems available that provide data to help manage and control fleet operating costs, but very few are capable of integrating this information into a system that helps you manage the whole business.

A critical factor to really improve fleet management is to be able to bring the key business operations together and allow them to more effectively co-operate. It is by improving the way in which the business can function that major benefits become available.

For example, customer orders are received into the management system. Once the orders are available to the system the operator can choose to use optimisation tools, like the Route Runner module.

The system matches transport to jobs based on time, capacity, equipment availability and the real road network. The output of tools such as these can be shown to reduce overall costs by an average of 15 percent and much more in many cases.

The system also allows you to plan when the fleet requires servicing and then automatically make the fleet being serviced unavailable for use. All your business areas can work together much more efficiently.

### **Performance Management**

Thanks to the integrated approach the

manager can easily see and monitor the performance of the business.

Without increasing the workload of your staff, information such as customer and job profitability by work type, vehicle or depot, as well as accurate fleet profitability reporting that provides analysis on a distance, time, or loading base, is instantly available.

There are no restrictions on the type of fleet that can benefit. Whether your fleet is local or interstate the operational knowledge you obtain from an integrated system allows you to make informed decisions and have an immediate impact.

A good example is the Lindsay Bros operation with more than 150 trucks operating from 17 different locations throughout the eastern states. They specialise in transporting fresh food and food related produce, making good logistics planning and speed to market a vital aspect of their business.

Lindsay Bros introduced the TransLogix Sapphire fleet management module which helps control operating costs, by monitoring and reporting upon scheduled maintenance, general repairs and maintenance, fuel, insurance and registration, as well as providing a complete masterfile for asset management and disposal.

Sapphire is more than a fleet

management system that focuses on maintenance. It is a fully integrated Windows-based software programme that has been designed to manage all aspects of a transport and logistics business. It works to streamline all operating procedures and in the process, saves time and money.

Wayne Bunker their General Manager explains. "With an integrated system there are enormous productivity benefits. Since we went live 12 months ago we have been applying more and more features of the system to our business. Our next move will be to introduce the workshop module to help us manage the productivity of our fleet.

"The system has certainly improved the way we operate our business and, as importantly, helped us to improve the standard of service we can offer our customers."

Ultimately there is the opportunity to substantially improve your business productivity with a system that is integrated, functional, versatile, easy to use and easy to install. If you currently have a fleet with more than five vehicles and have plans to grow your business and improve profitability, it is well worth looking at an integrated transport management software solution. ■

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