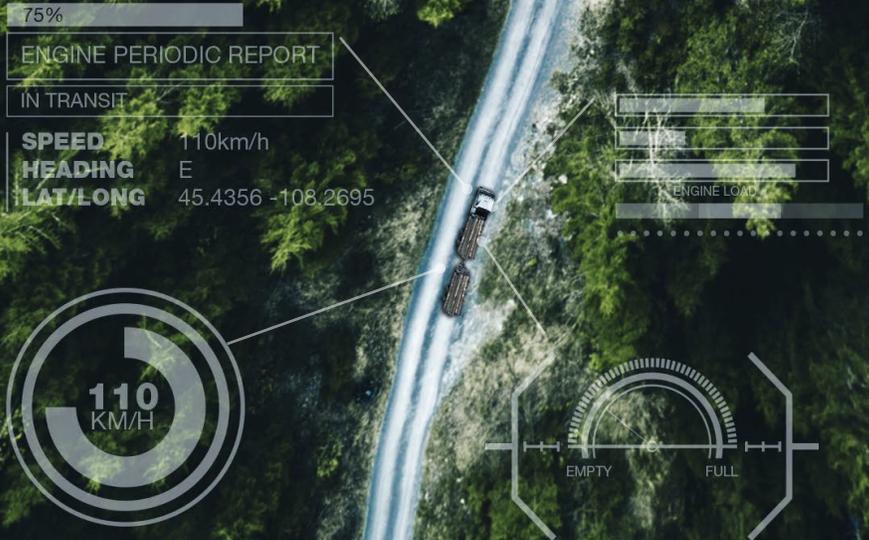


TRAKOPOLIS[®]

Case Study

How Trakopolis' solution to improve cycle times also led to overall cost savings and efficiencies for a large forestry operator and its contractors





1 | SOURCING AN AUTOMATED SOLUTION TO REPLACE MANUAL PROCESSES

The operator is a western Canadian producer of sustainable lumber, pulp and paper, with customers all over the world who rely on a ready supply of quality products and superior service. Managing transport cycle times effectively from cutblocks to sawmills is a significant part of the reliability equation.

The operator outsources all its trucking operations and needed a way to accurately track routes and travel times, without relying on manual logs. The company had tried establishing a check-in/check-out system to improve efficiency, but this system still required drivers or field staff to manually input driver/time/location information – a time-consuming effort prone to errors. They hoped that automation would help better manage their sizable fleet of trucks, stationary assets, people and locations.

“We wanted to get a better handle on our log hauling cycle times... specifically how long should a given cycle take, and how long was it taking,” explains a hauling analyst.



Better routing, scheduling, driver behaviour, invoice justification and dispute resolution are all direct results of the Trakopolis fleet management implementation.

2 | FINDING A PARTNER WITH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD BE CUSTOMIZED TO THEIR SPECIFIC NEEDS

A quality Fleet Management solution offers sophisticated GPS tracking of any number of mobile and stationary assets, but the forestry industry operates in particularly varied, remote, and rugged terrain. After being disappointed by a previous technology supplier's offering, the operator selected Trakopolis for its custom mapping features and advanced geo-fencing capabilities. This solution allowed them to overlay their custom GIS forestry, cutblocks and mill maps to the integrated GPS maps, and establish a geo-fence around areas where they could pinpoint comings and goings. To ensure transparency, both contractors and the operator have access to the same cycle time reports.

“We use the geo-fence report quite a bit,” added the hauling analyst. “It helps us evaluate time spent in the cutblocks, and our contractors use it to determine efficiencies at the saw mill. It’s a win/win.”



According to a driving contractor: *“I think the primary benefit of the Trakopolis solution is safety, and because we’re monitoring, our drivers are slowing down – with impacts like reduced fuel cost, fewer speeding tickets and accidents. That all adds up.”*

The forestry operator also liked Trakopolis’ ability to customize reports to the needs and formats of the organization, as well as its in-house, agile development and 24/7 live support – just the kind of service upon which the operator built its own reputation over the past 80 years.

3 | REAPING THE BENEFITS OF A CUSTOMIZABLE FLEET MANAGEMENT SOLUTION

Though improved fleet management was the operator’s main reason for seeking an automated solution, they also knew that the system’s implementation would yield many more benefits – for themselves and their contractors:

4. **Engine diagnostics and driver scorecards:** Trucking contractors are now able to collect data to track driver behavior, engine maintenance requirements, real-time engine trouble code alerts, fuel report burn analytics, asset location, speed, over idling and insurance renewal alerts and more.
5. **De-wrap stations:** The geo-fencing capabilities within the sawmills identified areas of bottle-necking at some of the de-wrap stations. With this visibility, the operator was able to adjust the scheduling so that trucks were spread out over the full day rather than all at peak times, and in one case, they added a second de-wrap station.
6. **Distance Tax Reporting:** Using GPS information, Trakopolis was able to automate trip calculations for the IFTA report specifically for British Columbia, eliminating the need for operators to manually input and calculate road tax allocations for public versus private roads, leading to improved accuracy, fewer administrative tasks, and greater savings.
7. **Power BI:** With Microsoft’s Power Business Intelligence plug-in, the operator can generate custom, enterprise-grade reports tailored specifically to their unique business operations. This gives them greater visibility into their day-to-day activities, and later historical analysis and trending.

Trakopolis’ fleet management solution leverages the Internet of Things to connect this large forestry operator’s assets, manage the vast amounts of data they transmit, and visualize the output as usable business intelligence. The operator continues to deploy additional GPS tracking as their needs change, and continues to reap the rewards in efficiencies, cost-savings and business performance.



4 | SNAPSHOT

Date: 2015

Customer: Large forestry operator

Industry: Forestry

Scope: More than 600 units tracked

Requirements

- Automating to improve quality of reports, integration with enterprise systems, and transparency
- Determining areas for improvement and greater accountability
- Accurately tracking contractor routes and travel times

Trakopolis Solution

- Fleet management with customizable geo-fencing and reporting capabilities
- Intuitive, easy-to-use, accessible web application
- Engine diagnostics and driver scorecards

Results

- Improved routing and scheduling
- Simplified invoice justification and dispute resolution
- Improved driver behavior, increased safety and cost savings
- Automated regional Distance Tax Reporting, resulting in significant ROI

