

Wireless Network Options

Overview

Opus Fleet & Distribution can support many different wireless communications technologies.

A neutral view is taken on what network and which service provider a customer selects. Unlike many “solution” providers, Fleet Management Systems do not resell air time and therefore do not have any bias towards any particular network.

In summary, Opus Fleet & Distribution supports the following wireless networks and services:

- GPRS data services
- GSM (dial-up data) data services
- Mobitex data services

You may have also noticed that we do not support SMS (text) messaging - although, in fact, all our in-vehicle hardware is designed to support it. Why is this? Simply, Fleet Management Systems have found that compared to GPRS and even GSM data, SMS data messaging is neither cost effective nor reliable and consequently presents significant operational limitations that will skew any payback calculations customers make.

Whilst Fleet Management Systems maintain a neutral stance on data bearer selection - the facts do speak for themselves as GPRS quickly becomes the Transport and Logistics industry’s wireless data communication medium of choice.

International roaming support on GSM/GPRS data networks has been extensively used by Opus Fleet & Distribution customers - with customer vehicles being monitored using GPRS and GSM communications in over 14 European countries.

GPRS Notes

- **Use for large fleets, where low mobile costs are paramount and large data throughput is expected**
- Uses the GSM voice network and therefore has good UK and International coverage
- Data costs charged per byte - very reasonable costs (typically a few dollars per megabyte/month).
- Data is compressed before sending, minimising costs
- Fixed costs can be higher, as a leased line is recommended for GPRS use
- Data throughput is higher - better for sending images like signatures

GSM Notes

- **Use for small fleets, where low fixed costs and quick implementation is required**
- Uses the GSM voice network and therefore has good coverage
- Costs for mobile calls are reasonable, charge per second minimised by data compression and quick connection times
- Data rates are low, typically 9600 bps
- Voice communications are also supported

Mobitex Notes

- **Use for small or larger fleets, where data security and resilience is required (less a key operational requirement in the Transport and Logistics marketplace)**