



PRESS RELEASE
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Taxis G7 adopts A2iA FieldReader to process its taxi voucher forms and streamline its billing system

Thanks to the integration of A2iA's handwriting recognition software in Sofrane Informatique's Sof-Taxi solution and the use of an intelligent VIPS scanner, Taxis G7 pays its drivers the very next day for journeys taken by account holders. Over 10,000 voucher forms are processed automatically each month, and the Automatic Document Processing system has made Taxis G7's customer service even more reliable.

Taxis G7 is the largest radio-taxi dispatcher in Europe, with a fleet of over 4,000 affiliated drivers. Its call center, staffed by over 200 operators, handles over seven million requests for transport annually. Taxis G7 has a large subscriber base of customers with accounts. In order to provide the best possible service, taxi voucher forms are provided to subscribers who wish to use this method, which allows micro-management of access rights to this service, as well as monthly billing. These forms are completed after each journey by the taxi driver, who notes the date, the amount and his or her taxi code. Once the form is handed in to the Taxis G7 billing department, this information must be entered into the administration system in order for the driver to be paid.

As these forms were being processed manually, the Taxis G7 information systems department decided in late 2004 to automate the processing of forms in order to pay drivers more quickly and to reduce the risk of billing errors.

Taxis G7 called on the services of Sofrane Informatique, referred by Prestique Conseil, to conduct a market research study on the automatic document reading systems best suited to the purpose. The application selected was the customized system proposed jointly by the software vendor A2iA and the manufacturer of the VIPS check reader, mainly due to A2iA FieldReader's handwriting recognition capabilities.

The A2iA/VIPS Automatic Document Processing system was integrated into the administration system in early 2005 by the integrator Sofrane Informatique, which helped to develop the model for the new Taxis G7 voucher form. To ensure an optimal rate of processing, the format was revised to include preprinted character boxes. The A2iA FieldReader recognition engine reads handwritten fields (taxi code, date and amount, among other things), and the VIPS software recognizes the printed number of the form. The recognition rate is approximately 85% of all forms processed. Those presenting a risk of being misread are automatically rejected by the system and entered manually by the billing department.

The automation of this process has considerably reduced the time required to pay drivers, as all forms are processed the day they are received: once the information is read by the system, it is entered directly into the administrative database, and the driver is automatically paid by electronic transfer.

The volume processed annually amounts to 100,000 to 150,000 forms, freeing the staff of the billing department from low-value-added tasks. In terms of ROI, the system has also improved Taxis G7's customer service, as it reduces any risk of billing errors due to mistakes in manual data entry, and in so doing reduces the claims resulting from such errors.

"The VIPS/A2iA solution integrated by Sofrane Informatique fully satisfies our requirements in terms of speed and accuracy. It processes about a hundred forms per minute, and the ergonomics of the

interface further optimizes the time our staff spends on data entry”, comments Cyril Metz, Development and Systems Director at Taxis G7.

About A2iA

A2iA (Artificial Intelligence & Image Analysis), founded in 1991, headquartered in New York and Paris, is known as the worldwide leading developer of Intelligent Word Recognition (IWR) technology for extracting information from natural freeform and cursive handwriting on paper documents. The company’s technology has been helping paper-intensive industries reduce data entry costs and improve business process automation for over 14 years. A2iA’s recognition engines harmonize their OCR, ICR and IWR technologies with their image analysis, artificial intelligence and neural network systems to enhance solutions from the world’s leading systems integrators and other independent software vendors. For more information: www.a2ia.com.

About Sofrane Informatique

Since 1979, Sofrane has provided consulting and software development services to the banking, commerce and industrial sectors. Reflecting the highly “company-specific” nature of its business, the term “software package” is replaced by a customizable “program core”.