

map&guide planner – the ideal tool for vehicle scheduling**Logistics service provider counts on new software for vehicle and route scheduling**

“Traditional scheduling technology seems a little outdated compared to this software,” says Frank Appelt, head of Automotive at DALOG.

For over a decade he has been responsible for DALOG's major customers, helping them to improve freight distribution. Frank Appelt took on an exciting new challenge with the following project: The carmaker Ford wanted to know whether DALOG was able to schedule the transport of around 1,000 cars by truck within a large dealer network. The main goal is to ensure maximum efficiency and the shortest possible start-up phase.

Client: DALOG Mehrwertdienste GmbH, Cologne's logistics service provider, Ford is one of DALOG's major customers.

Challenge: Daily transport scheduling of 1,000 newly manufactured cars in a fast, cost-efficient and economic manner by truck to the point of sale.

Solution: The map&guide planner software automates trip & vehicle planning. It provides reliable simulation results to be used for highly realistic vehicle scheduling.

Frank Appelt included numerous parameters into the complex trip & vehicle scheduling process, such as the hill profile of a route or the driver's remaining shift time. “The software generates the trip schedules for all goods and HGVs. It takes every smallest detail into account.” Frank has many years of experience in this field and knows about the difficulties in including new unloading points in the current trip schedule or in finding the most appropriate truck for the new job. Which truck is close to that particular location? What is the vehicle's loading capacity and what are the driver's rest periods? How will the additional stop-off point impact the original time schedule?

“It would take a while if you still had to use the phone and a pair of compasses. But this software suggests the optimal vehicle, displays its current location on the map and immediately calculates the route with the additional cargo by mouse click,” explains Frank Appelt. Every location is clearly displayed on the map. The dispatcher can easily include the new transport order to the vehicle's trip schedule via drag'n'drop. The system always calculates the optimal route which is transmitted to the driver by phone, SMS or fax. It is also possible to directly

transmit a transport order with all details, such as addresses and cargo, from the software application to external freight carriers. This is a very useful feature, if your own vehicles are currently not available. “We get immediate support and can make the right decision more quickly,” says Frank Appelt.



Easy vehicle scheduling with two screens.

Early calculation of correct results

The tool provides numerous useful features and can easily be integrated into the client's software system for transport management, ERP and merchandise management. “The software calculates the profit or loss ratio for each shipment. This allows us to estimate whether a transport order is profitable or not,” says Frank Appelt. Unprofitable vehicle trips can easily be avoided thanks to the calculation function. It allows early identification of risks which is of great benefit to smaller transport companies. According to Frank Appelt, the software is also the ideal tool for all carriers who have to schedule vehicles and trips on a daily basis. “This professional planning system will soon become a standard solution, at least for companies handling distribution transports and full and part loads.”

Dalog had to invest about 10,000 euros which included software for two workstations, the map of Great Britain and a two-day customised training programme. It's an investment that quickly pays for itself thanks to considerably improved transport order processing, covering a daily volume of 1,000 goods per shipment. Frank Appelt comments: “The software increases efficiency while at the same time making life easier for dispatchers.”