

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

**EIS ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF CUTTING EDGE
ON-BOARD COMPUTING APPLICATION FOR FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION**

*Low Cost Hardware & High-Powered Java™ Technology Combine
to Bring New Functionality to the Trucking Industry*

Downers Grove, IL, February 18, 2003 – The Transportation Practice of Enterprise Information Solutions, Inc. (EIS), a systems integration and computer engineering firm, has announced the debut of a new on-board computing application developed to provide freight, parcel or other fleet drivers the ability to receive routes, accept real-time routing updates and confirm arrivals, departures and other fulfillment information while on the road. The only hardware drivers need to use and interact with the new system is a Java™ enabled cell phone and data service.

Through direct integration with EIS's Enterprise Transportation Management Application, which supports dispatch and routing assignments, this new functionality can significantly streamline communications between dispatchers and drivers while requiring little or no investment in potentially costly per truck hardware.

"EIS has a long history of working with applications that leverage on-board communication capabilities," said Marc Mitchell, EIS's Transportation Practice Director. "We have worked with some of the earliest adopters of two-way data communication solutions developed for ground-based transportation, including many which utilized satellite

communication. We understand the power these applications bring in terms of operations management and the ability to capture more real-time data without extensive labor. This translates into better decision-making and a higher quality of service for a carrier's customers."

"Previously, the costs of an investment in on-board communications were often hard to justify," continued Mitchell. "While the rewards of increased computing flexibility were clear to all, the risks often proved too difficult to overcome. Utilizing a cellular phone as the in-cab communications device can now reduce hardware investments by 10 to 20 times while increasing productivity and efficiencies."

With EIS's new phone-based application, drivers receive full details of pickup and delivery stops they are assigned, including updates of new stops while on route. They also confirm pickup and delivery times for each stop plus proof of delivery information

and even update piece and size counts to better reflect available capacity. This is all accomplished without tying up a dispatcher's time at the homeoffice. The cellular on-board application is fully integrated with EIS's existing LTL Dispatch Application, which means that once a dispatcher has assigned a pickup or delivery to a truck, the driver is





instantly notified and can communicate fulfillment activities back to the home office, where activities are immediately visible to dispatchers.

In addition to the major reduction in deployment costs, EIS sees major value coming from this type of application in the way it embraces the use of open technologies. Older systems, while powerful, often were fairly proprietary in the way they were used and integrated into the larger transportation management process. "The development environment for building applications for the phone is Java," said EIS Technical Architect Drew Amwoza. "The skills and approach for building more traditional workstation applications are the same used when developing for a phone device. Furthermore, the emergence of packet-based data services, such as PacketStream, available within the Nextel system, means connectivity between mobile phone and back office has been reduced to an approach that doesn't differ significantly from how a standard workstation interacts with a traditional server." EIS believes the trend toward open, non-proprietary technologies will lower development costs and also ensure greater longevity and flexibility for these transportation solutions. This will enable applications to take advantage of future improvements and innovations without the need for costly re-designs.

"What is most noteworthy in this on-board computing system is that it is not just a simple Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) application or a mobile communication solution that must be integrated into a larger system that provides the data required to operate," said Mitchell. "This solution is being deployed into the field and seamlessly integrated into a fully functional Enterprise Transportation Management Application." EIS is currently working to deploy this new technology for two clients: one traditional LTL freight operation and one providing parcel delivery service. Whether within the scope of future EIS Application implementations or integrated into other backend systems or products, EIS believes this cellular solution will have a significant impact on the level of technology a carrier can bring to bear on its operation, and ultimately the level of service they are able to provide their customers.

About EIS

Enterprise Information Solutions, Inc. (EIS), headquartered in Downers Grove, Illinois is a systems integration and computer engineering firm dedicated to deploying cutting edge technology solutions based on Open Systems and Open Source components. Founded in 1994, the EIS Transportation Practice focuses on solutions related to the specific challenges of the transportation and logistics industry and has participated in the development and implementation of many high profile projects for some of the biggest names in the business.

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