

Santa Clarita contract won

The Santa Clarita City Council has awarded Connexionz the contract to install a transit information network on the city's 81 vehicle fleet.



Since the contract was signed, Connexionz staff have been to the United States to liaise with the customer to organize contractors. New Zealand staff will project manage and supervise the contract, which is expected to be completed by May 2009.

"Once the RTI system has been rolled out passengers will be able to identify accurately with the arrival time of their next bus at any location of their choice; real time tracking data is relayed from buses to stops. Real Time bus information is displayed at stops on VMS and other signage and remotely through the web and mobile and landline phones," Santa Clarita City Transit Manager Jeff O'Keefe enthused.

Connexionz Sales Director Robert Burke points out the value of the real time information to transit officials.

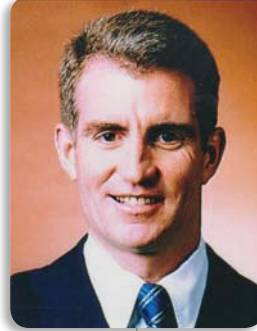
"One of the biggest problems is when the bus is running late the passenger has no way of knowing when their bus will arrive. With the reliable Connexionz real time information passengers are kept informed," Robert says.

New Chief Executive announced

Experienced international business manager **Roger Carruthers** has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Connexionz Limited.

Roger has worked for Merck Sharp & Dohme in a variety of senior management positions over 23 years based in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States. Most recently he was responsible for sales and marketing operations in South East Asia, with a turnover of \$US100million.

He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Otago University and gained his ACA qualification in 1986. Roger replaces Richard Riley,



who was contracted to manage the company part-time on a short term contract. Richard returns to his previous role as a Director.

Connexionz Chairman Craig Boyce congratulated Richard

for his contributions.

"Under Richard the company's financial position has significantly improved. Roger brings a lot of leadership experience in establishing businesses in foreign countries, as well as a sound understanding of technology development processes to build on the progress already made."

Events

Connexionz - Connexionz attended the tri-annual American Passenger Transport Association Expo in San Diego Convention Centre in October attracting around 10,000 people over four days and included two floors of trade displays.

Connexionz UK - Following APTA, Connexionz was also represented at the annual EuroBus Conference, held in Birmingham and also the Manchester Transport Conference held later in November.

We make every effort to be noticed among high profile competition, however we can boast that we've gained a significant number of new leads from attending these shows, Connexionz retiring Managing Director Richard Riley says.



Russell Gard (left), Connexionz UK Operations Director and Mr. Geoff Hoon, Secretary of State for Transport, at The Manchester Transport Conference.

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A Christchurch 10-year-old boy checks how close his bus is using the Connexionz system designed for Metro buses.

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Connexionz helps provide better access

Since losing my sight nearly a decade ago, one of the biggest barriers I have encountered in respect to my personal orientation and navigation is the lack of maps that are accessible to me.

The frustration associated with this barrier was brought to the fore a little over 12 months ago when I relocated to Christchurch and needed to be able to quickly and efficiently navigate unfamiliar city blocks and bus routes.

Sighted people commonly use a Global Positioning System for vehicle navigation. Users with a receiver can determine their location using satellites. Thanks to various software packages, blind and visually impaired people can now use this technology to improve their own navigation.

One of these packages is Loadstone – free software designed to be used on some mobile phones in conjunction with an external GPS receiver. This allows the blind and visually impaired to navigate areas using points of reference they, or others, have created.

Once you have all the equipment you need and have set the software up, you can start to mark points – like the local dairy or bus stop, and use these for reference at a later date. In addition to creating your own points, the Loadstone website has a database of points which other users



Logan McMullen text by speech on his mobile phone to receive next bus arrival times using technology and data supplied by Connexionz.

have created and uploaded. Soon another product called Hiker will be available which will allow people to purchase entire maps for every town and city in New Zealand.

I am currently using a trial version of the Hiker information in conjunction

STAFF UPDATES

Before starting as Connexionz, Service Manager, **Tom Duggan** ran a small Information Technology business and tutored in IT. Born in the United Kingdom, Tom has lived in New Zealand for about 30 years.

Former Avonmore information technology tutor and small IT business owner **Cliff Hairston** was recently appointed Customer Services Engineer. Cliff hails from West Virginia, United States, but has been in Christchurch for nine years.

Tom and Cliff's main role involve providing operational support for customers in the US, UK, and NZ.

with Loadstone and it provides me with the name of every intersection in Christchurch, allowing me to plan, and map routes to destinations. It also means I know exactly where I am while in a personal car or taxi.

Using phone based software and data supplied by Connexionz Ltd, I am able to find out where the next bus stop is in addition to which bus will next pass the stop and the time it is due.

This software and the GPS system is by no means a replacement for good orientation and mobility skills, but it provides an additional aid when getting about in both familiar and unfamiliar areas.

Contact us

To learn more about the Connexionz products and services, email sales@connexionz.co.nz

Or go to www.connexionz.co.nz