



PRESS RELEASE

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Nexus Alpha selects Zytronic's ZYBRID® for touchscreen-based training application for train drivers

Kiosk will help train operators keep drivers on track with intuitive and easy to use route learning and tutorials

Zytronic's ZYBRID touch sensor has been selected by Nexus Alpha for use in an interactive training application for train drivers. Using Zytronic's projected capacitive technology (PCT™), and software developed by Track Access Services Ltd., the application is designed to help new and current train drivers familiarise themselves with specific routes, and offer Web-based tutorials and driver assessments to teach and refresh skills.

Nexus Alpha is a specialist provider of technology solutions to the public transport industry and has in-depth experience of building rugged applications for the rail environment. The company developed a 26" widescreen LCD unit for use in high stress areas of the rail network and was asked by Track Access Services Ltd., a specialist provider of systems and projects for transportation in the UK and Europe, to modify their existing LCD unit to incorporate a touchscreen. Nexus Alpha selected Zytronic's ZYBRID as the touchscreen of choice.



Zytronic's ZYBRID sensors use an array of micro-fine capacitors embedded behind the front substrate material. The ability to sense touch can be up to 20mm below the interactive surface, which ensures a high level of protection from dust, dirt, and other contaminants and will continue to operate even if the surface becomes scratched. PCT can combine easily with robust materials such as tempered glass or polycarbonate, meaning it can create a non-surface active solution that can withstand extremely harsh environments. It is easy to integrate, and because it is drift-free, maintenance costs are extremely low.

"This application is designed for use in driver mess rooms and also in classroom situations, so we needed a cost-effective, robust touchscreen solution that could operate efficiently and reliably without any concerns about performance in a rugged environment," says Julian Coleman, engineering department manager at Nexus Alpha. "Having worked with Zytronic on other projects we were already impressed with the company's technology. ZYBRID is an ideal solution for this application because we did not have to make any compromise; it can be operated with a gloved hand, provides a tough resilient surface and does not reduce screen clarity – something that other technologies can suffer from especially where incident light is significant. Zytronic was able to provide us with a bespoke design rapidly and cost-effectively."

The software from Track Access includes a "virtual" route learning system which enables drivers to visualise and familiarise themselves with a route. Drivers can also use the touch interactive functionality of the application to complete mandatory, periodic training and assessment modules.



“Virtually anyone can use a touchscreen because they are so intuitive and user-friendly, enabling drivers to work through the route learning systems and tutorials at their own speed, regardless of their perception of technology and without the need for a tutor to be seated next to them,” says Alison Butler, project manager, Track Access Services Ltd. “A touchscreen will only do what you want it to do which means the likelihood of user error is significantly reduced. The software we provide requires good optical clarity on the screen for the route learning systems, and very fast response time to touch for the tutorials. We believe that ZYBRID has met these requirements and by using a reliable touchscreen solution we can offer users of this application a satisfactory method of training and learning in a way that is less daunting than using a keyboard and mouse.”

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About Zytronic

Zytronic designs and manufactures a range of technologies that optimise the performance of electronic display applications. The company’s principle products include award-winning touch sensor technologies, optical filters for enhanced performance and protection, and special filters to minimise electromagnetic emissions. In addition, the company can offer complex shaped glass composites for specialised applications.

Zytronic products are used in electronic displays for information kiosks, web phones, ATMs and gaming machines, as well as by military, computer, telecommunications, medical and lighting OEMs, and are available from its network of worldwide distributors.

The company has its headquarters and state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Blaydon, Tyne & Wear in the UK. In addition to ISO-approved manufacturing, these facilities are home to Zytronic’s team of lamination, material science and electronics specialists who are responsible for ongoing product development in composite technology.

For more company information, please visit Zytronic’s web site at: www.zytronic.co.uk.

About Nexus Alpha Ltd.

Nexus Alpha’s core business is the provision of software and related services to the transport sector: the Nexus Alpha Tyrell software has been a core component of the TOC control systems for over a decade, enabling the TOCs to enter disruption data rapidly and accurately and to disseminate that data to others, not just internally to their TOC colleagues but more widely to other TOCs, Network Rail, and the media.

More recently Nexus Alpha has extended that service provision by providing web, mobile and other systems to enable the TOCs to supply disruption information directly to passengers through our JourneyCheck and JourneyCheck Alert products.

Nexus Alpha has been providing hardware for information display for some years as a specialist supplier. In recent years that experience has been used as the foundation for a new range of innovative hardware systems intended to make our capabilities available to a wider sector of the market – for details of the new range as it comes on-stream – please visit our web site www.nexusalpha.com



The Company is based in London (Head office and web software team) and Rochester (all other software departments together with hardware design and assembly).

About Track Access Services Ltd.

Based in Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, UK, Track Access Services Ltd. is a leading developer of systems and projects including computer based training, route learning systems, track access learning kiosks, rail modernisation, road filming services and road film reports, for transportation companies located across Europe, such as SNCB, Silverlink and Irish Rail.

Track Access Services is also a UK representative for Krauss Mappel Wegmann (KMW). In addition to offering simulation systems, the two companies are jointly developing interactive re-signalling systems and desktop simulation.

For further information, please go to: www.trackaccess.co.uk

Contact details for editorial enquiries:

Sheila Dean, Zytronic
Whiteley Road, Blaydon on Tyne, Tyne & Wear, NE21 5NJ, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 191 414 5511 Fax: +44 (0) 191 414 0545
Email: sheila.dean@zytronic.co.uk

Julian Coleman, Nexus Alpha Limited
Ashford House, Beaufort Court, Sir Thomas Longley Road, Rochester,
Kent ME2 4FA
Tel: 01634 321146
Fax: 01634 301315
Email: julian.coleman@nexusalpha.com
Web: www.nexusalpha.com

Alison Butler, Track Access Services Ltd
St. Christopher House, 126 Ridge Road, Letchworth Garden City,
Hertfordshire, SG6 1PT, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1462 686248
Email: alison.butler@trackaccessservices.co.uk
Website: www.trackaccessservices.co.uk

Issued by:

Nicky Wheaton/Birgit Schöniger, Pinnacle Marketing Communications Ltd, Prosperity House, Dawlish
Drive, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 5LN, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8869 9449 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8868 4373
Email: nicky@pinnaclemarcom.com / birgit@pinnaclemarcom.com
www.pinnacle-marketing.com

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