RailBusinessDaily

Rail innovators extend collaboration with Network Rail to improve passenger experience

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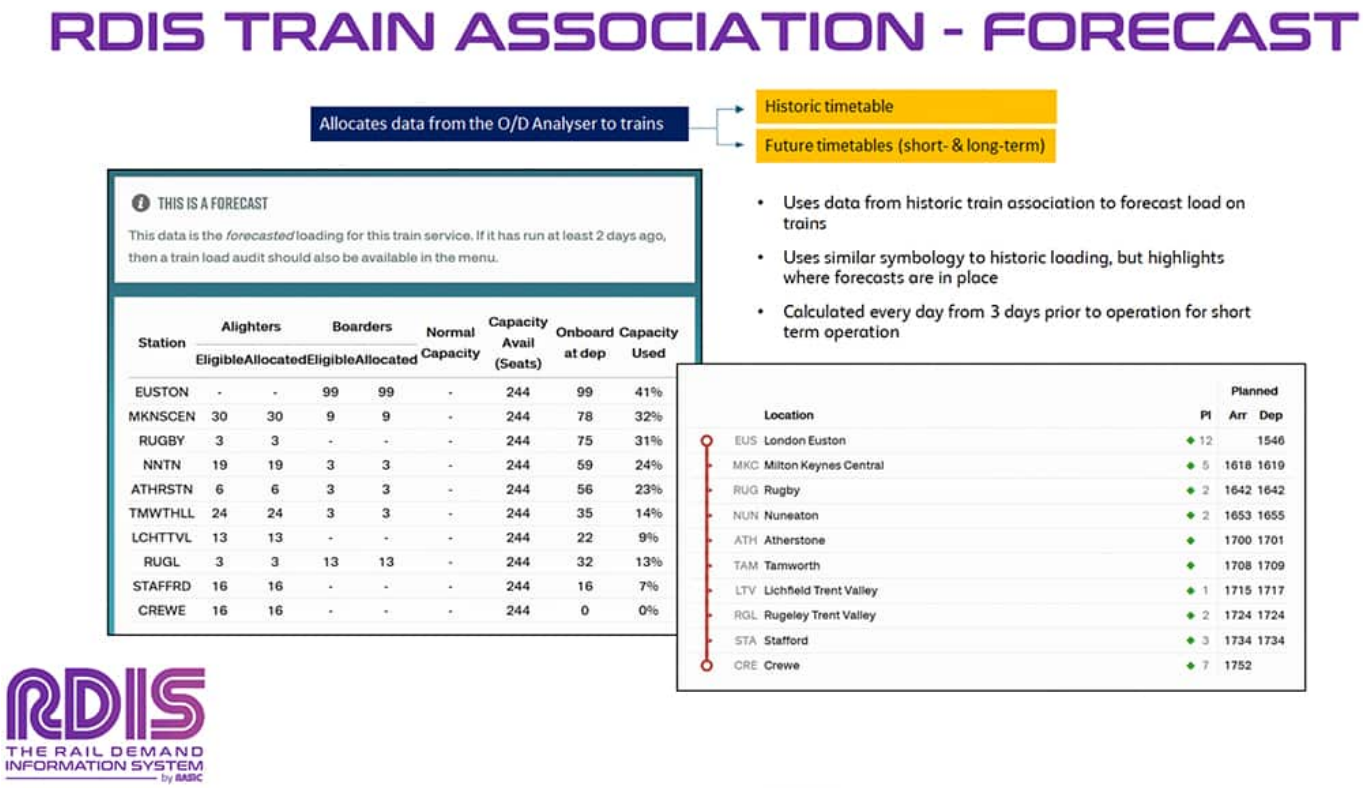

RASIC – the Rail And Station Innovation Company – has extended its collaboration with Network Rail on a project which could eventually revolutionise the public transport experience.

The Rail Demand Information System – or RDIS – focuses on accurately gauging the occupancy of trains. The deal between RASIC and Network Rail could lead to even more sophisticated information being available to subscribing passengers – for example, was the previous service delayed or cancelled; is overcrowding an issue on later trains?

The product now accurately maps varying train usage and the system will become more and more accurate as testing and refinement progress in the coming year.

RDIS uses various data sources to improve the information collected via mobile networks. Anonymised data is collected from mobile networks' cell towers. This versatile body of data identifies station usage as well as an indication of journey times and routes chosen – with a wider interest to transport infrastructure providers.

The collaboration of parties with RASIC, train operating companies and passenger transport executives has presented some innovative solutions and insights into how people travel. For the passenger, it allows trends to be analysed which would aid service provision in the future.

The coming six months will focus on making RDIS accurately mirror real life and the development team has created a sophisticated method to achieve this.

Marcus Mayers, Director of RASIC said: “We’re delighted to be continuing our long relationship with Network Rail on the RDIS project. We’ve brought together the best people from mobile phone data to work with the best of Network Rail to best manage the future of the railways.

“I can see the incredible potential of this and am excited to see the project flourish to the benefit of so many people. This new deal struck with Network Rail will make an incredible difference to the RDIS product.”

- Returns the total number of people seen within the realm of the station.
  - This means that people are counted if they are on platforms, on trains waiting at the platform, on the station concourse or waiting area, in shops at the station or in the very close vicinity of the station. However, it does not distinguish between these different areas.
- The system also shows *indicatively* the likely station destination of those people present within the station of interest. This is derived using device information and long term trend analysis.
- This is new methodology for measuring station usage that will help us understand not just occupancy but also build-up of demand and the flow of passengers in and out of the station.
- We released this functionality to the TOC community on the 6-Aug for testing and feedback.
- This is different to the Waterloo proof of concept that uses the LIDAR sensors to provide information to staff and passengers about passenger density and other attributes in selected zones that are deployed with sensors at Waterloo.

All licensed passenger operators who are members of Rail Delivery Group can access RDIS for free until 11 May 2022. Contact info@rasic.co.uk to be granted credentials.

RASIC has already designed and implemented delivery strategies that offer controlled, progressive improvements to the existing rail environment. The team currently has over 15 live innovation projects in the UK and across Latin America, with more in their infancy. The firm specialises in using technology to improve the rail industry through validation-of-use cases, production of the value proposition / business cases, introductions to customers and ongoing subject matter expertise.

For more comment, further detail on RASIC or RDIS or for media appearances, please contact Marcus Mayers, Director of RASIC: marcus.mayers@rasic.co.uk or 07747-771894 (24 hr).

Photo credit: RASIC