



2008 5th Annual IACP-iXP Excellence in Technology Award

Innovation in Information Technology Category *Large Agency Winner*

Agency: Dutch Police - National Police and County Groningen

Project: PDA Alert



Together with the national ICT organization called VTS-PN, the county of Groningen (1200 police-officers) developed a location based service called PDA-Alert. This service provides operational information to police-officers on the beat related to their position and role.

The officer is provided with a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) with a GPS, a client application, and a continuous connection (GPRS/UMTS/HSDPA) with the police network. At the central ICT organization a server application is installed, connected with a database of automatically replicated operational incidents. Open fines, Location based mutual agreements and actual briefing information. Those incidents are geo-coded. The client application on the PDA sends out a continuous stream of GPS positions to the server. These positions are matched with the positions of the geo-coded incidents in the server. If there is a match within 20 meters of the incident the police officer will be alerted with a sound and a pop-up on the PDA. He can check the incident and get more information from the police-incident-systems by clicking on a “deeplink” which is provided in the screen. This deeplink will give him immediately access to the back-office incident-system. Any actions taken can be put into the system. He will get an email from his actions, so he will not have to write anything down. He can put a message into the client application of the PDA so the next officer which will come along the incident will have more information. The officer can also see the position of other officers using this service. He can click on that position and will be presented with the name and telephone number. Beside this location based information he can also do identity enquiries on the system. For instance he can check license plates from 10 European countries, driver’s license, soccer-hooligans, multi offenders, etc.

The Dutch police is convinced that this technology will help to get a better situational awareness for the police-officers on the beat. This will provide information led policing and more safety to the officers and the community they serve.