

INTELLIGENT TAXI DISPATCHING PROCEDURE AT LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT

Since 2004, the British Airports Authority (BAA) is using an innovative taxi management system at London's Heathrow Airport. The solution, based on long-range RFID technology from Nedap and software provided by Steria, reduces taxi waiting times and enables the world's leading airport company to control and track taxi access. Only licensed taxis driven by authorized drivers are allowed to pick up passengers at the designated areas of the terminals.

BAA also deployed the taxi system at the new built Terminal 5 in 2008. Recently, BAA has renewed and expanded the taxi dispatching system at London Heathrow Airport.

Taxi transport is an important way of travelling from and to London's Heathrow Airport. To regulate the terminal traffic on the landside, BAA is using Automatic Vehicle Identification (AVI) technology. The taxi lanes are equipped with Nedap's [TRANSIT Standard](#) long-range identification readers, which identify the taxi and its driver by reading Nedap's windshield mounted transponder called [Booster](#).



TRANSIT Standard is based on radio frequency identification (RFID) technology in the 2.45 GHz band. It allows identification of transponders or tags at a distance of up to 10 meters in demanding situations and even at high speed passage. Nedap's Booster is an in-vehicle device that exists of a unique vehicle identification number which can be combined with a driver's personal identification card.

The Heathrow implementation provides an intelligent taxi dispatching procedure, which is able to reduce waiting times at the rank and allows a smooth, timely flow of taxis across all terminals. This solution meets the high requirements of BAA for a reliable, secure and convenient control of taxi traffic. The taxi dispatch system has been expanded this year and, after being in operation for more than ten years, the first installed readers and transponders have been renewed.