

Aculab's GroomerII helps automatization of 'trains ready for departure' notification

Improving railway network capacity is a tricky business, with infrastructure development slow and costly, while reductions in buffer time may risk reliability and security. No wonder a general understanding prevails that the best way to bring down any of those precious minutes and seconds that rolling stock spends en route, is to improve the real-time exchange of operational information.



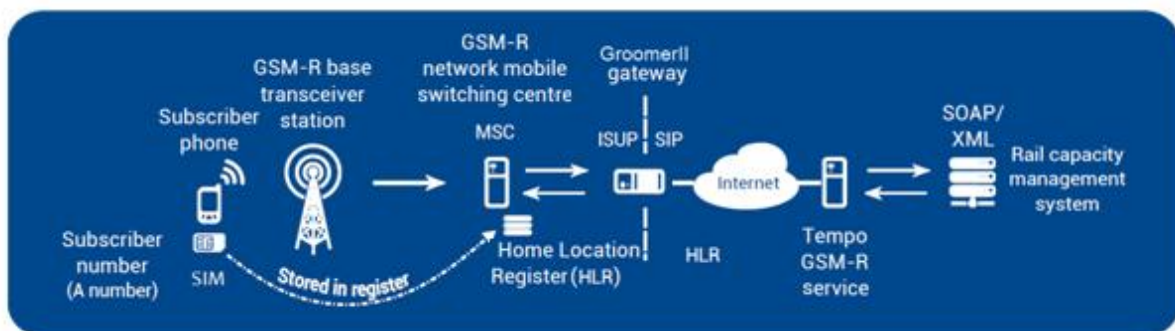
NSF Telecom, based in Finland, has provided its Call Server solution to the Finnish Transport Agency, to deliver notifications of departure readiness to the rail traffic control system. At present, all daily departures of passenger and freight trains are handled by NSF Telecom's solution.

With a simple call, using short-code dialing, train personnel leave their notifications of departure readiness. The notifying personnel are quickly answered by the Call Server IVR and get a confirmation via a pre-recorded message, while the traffic control system receives the notifications.

This automated service represents considerable savings for the Traffic Agency and, more importantly, fulfills the relevant Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSI).

"The departure notification service has transformed our train traffic control into one with the highest levels of automation in Europe", confirmed a representative of the Finnish Transport Agency.

Relying on Aculab's SS7 gateway, GroomerII, NSF Telecom's stand-alone, Call Server solution is filling the gap between the railway operator's GSM-R network and the Agency's traffic control system.



In this application, NSF Telecom's Tempo platform demonstrates its adaptability to human-to-machine (H2M) communications, just as fluently as it serves machine-to-machine (M2M) and traditional human-to-human communications. In combination

with the Tempo platform, Aculab's GroomerII, described as 'the Swiss Army knife of gateways', also proves its versatile capabilities for interfacing traditional telecommunications networks.

"The train ready for departure notification service is one of the recent examples of mission critical applications that the Tempo service platform enables for special networks such as GSM-Railways" commented Marko Hentilä, CEO of NSF Telecom

"We are pleased to have been able to provide NSF Telecom with GroomerII for this application, which is yet another example of how our gateway can be used to help improve operational efficiency in an environment where public safety is a prime concern," concluded David Samuel, Sales & Marketing Director at Aculab.

GroomerII is optimised for SIP-to-SS7 interworking, with signalling protocol conversion and media gateway functionality in line with industry standards. Aculab's GroomerII is widely used around the world for protocol interworking applications, including public safety, emergency services, and air and rail traffic control.