

DUBLIN, IRELAND

CASE STUDY



Contactless Leap Card system evolves with mobile NFC application

Vix Technology has been working with the National Transport Authority (NTA) for six years, and is currently the system integrator for the real-time passenger information (RTPI) system operating across Ireland's major cities. Vix provides the central system engine, which takes inputs from Dublin Bus AVL/Bus Eireann AVL and Luas and outputs the data on to more than 700 street displays and the National Journey Planner. Vix also plans to help integrate the North and South systems to facilitate RTPI for cross-border travel.

In 2011, Vix delivered the Integrated Ticketing Smart Card ("Leap Card"). With more than 1.5 million cards sold, the card can be used on public transport across Ireland's cities. The scheme processes nearly 100 million journeys annually and handles more than €10 million in travel credit top ups per month. A defining asset of the Leap Card System is that the smartcard itself contains the record of balance and recent journey history, enabling the system to ensure there is sufficient travel credit or an applicable ticket so the passenger can travel.

In 2016, Vix and the NTA became the first public sector body in Ireland to introduce NFC technology on a large-scale basis. This was instigated due to passengers struggling with delays in checking card balances, collecting pre-purchased tickets, and needing to physically visit vending machines or point-of-sale shops to top up. Vix partnered with Snapper to develop the innovative Leap Card NFC mobile app ("Leap Top-Up App"), which allows NTA passengers with NFC mobile wallet-enabled Android phones to check their card balance and instantly top-up with travel credit or collect pre-purchased tickets - all by simply touching their card against their phone. In December 2016, the value of top-ups exceeded €1.5M, and this figure is expected to rise.

The NTA won an excellence in innovation award in 2015 for this product, and has been nominated for an award in Transport Ticketing in the UK in 2017.



Key facts

- More than 2.5 million Leap Cards in use
- Leap Cards alone process nearly 100 million journeys annually
- Leap Card NFC app record €1M in top ups for the month of November 2016

