

The transport of goods, both long distance and within cities, contributes a substantial part of the total emissions generated by the transport sector. The SMARTSET project has developed and shown how freight transport in European cities and regions can be made more energy-efficient and sustainable. Now, as the SMARTSET project is finalised, it is time to have a look back on three years of successful implementations of efficient urban freight transport measures.

8 application sites worked for 1 goal: cleaner, safer and more efficient freight transport

The application sites in SMARTSET worked together to promote the need for more efficient solutions that lead to fewer transport kilometres and more sustainable economic models. SMARTSET provides examples of good practice that can support cities, regions and countries to contribute to the European Union '20-20-20' targets for reduction in carbon dioxide emissions and improvement in energy-efficiency.

Inclusion of market based business models

Within SMARTSET, market based business models have been developed that play a crucial role in the development of energy efficient distribution solutions.

Introduction of clean vehicles

The introduction of clean vehicles for last mile distribution and the use of intermodal transport have been facilitated within the SMARTSET project. By distributing with small electric vehicles, the local environment will be drastically improved in terms of greenhouse gas and particle emissions, road safety and congestion, making city centres more attractive.

Development of incentives and regulations

Incentives and regulations have been developed in the SMARTSET project; these are necessary to steer towards energy efficient urban freight transport and to support the development of freight consolidation services. Previous systems of incentives have also been studied.



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SMARTSET partners

Identifying the right target audience and conveying the right message at the right time

SMARTSET provided a platform for the transfer of actions and knowledge as well as for the exchange of experiences between all partners. Innovative and forward-looking ideas and approaches are qualities that the project's target audience associates with SMARTSET.

Project results

The activities and the positive effects of the project are expected to continue far beyond the life of the SMARTSET project. All project results are now available on the website www.smartset-project.eu

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As the SMARTSET project draws to its close, researchers in Newcastle University's NewRail are already working on their plans to EXPLOIT their award-winning work in the project, at home and abroad.

Theory becomes practice

Following the start-up and successful completion of the Coherent Campus electric vehicle scheme at Newcastle University, moves are now afoot to 'industrialise' the pilot and cement it as a core operational system within the University's day to day running. A new, closer location for the consolidation centre is being sought and planned and, once finalised, the scheme will be rolled out and extended to the widest viable range of goods and services. The first new step will be the internal flows of books to and from the library.

Widening the scope

On a broader front, the University and Clipper Logistics are continuing to work together to develop new opportunities to use the consolidation centre. Among the institutions being approached are Newcastle City Council and the local Civic Centre, while later phases may include another local University and also a different academic institution, in the North East of England.

Exploiting success further afield

As well as broadening and developing the scheme in the local area, NewRail and Newcastle University intend to develop plans to continue the dissemination of the work of the project and to replicate the scheme elsewhere in the UK. Discussions with other local authorities have been ongoing throughout the project and will now continue apace. The final phase of our exploitation plan will reach out across Europe as a whole, with possible collaborations in Belgium, The Netherlands and Italy, already foreseen.



Vice Chancellor Chris Brink presents the "Best Environmental Initiative" award to NewRail's research team

Academic outcomes

NewRail is of course primarily an academic research facility within Newcastle University, delivering university research, information and consultancy to meet the complex technological and managerial challenges of the transport industry. Using our strong links at both national and international level we intend, as well as continuing all other forms of dissemination, to write 1–3 peer reviewed articles on Urban Freight, in connection with our work on SMARTSET.

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