Parking trend

www.europeanparking.eu

Publication of the European Parking Association | Volume 41 | no. 1-2025

INTERNATIONAL

AT, BE, CY, FI, FR, DE, IE, IT, LU, PT, SK, SI, ES, NL: 8.50 Euro, HR 63.75 Kuna, GB 7.50 Pound, HU 2,550 Forint, NO 74.50 NOK, PL 39.10 Zloty, SE 80 SEK, CH 15.75 CHF

STEP INTO THE FUTURE PARKING WITHOUT A TICKET

With our innovative LPR technology, you offer your customers fast, secure, and ticketless parking – while simultaneously increasing the efficiency of your entire parking space management. Your advantages as an operator:

- **Automated processes:** No ticket printing, no manual transactions – everything runs automatically via license plate recognition.
- **Higher efficiency**: Faster entry and exit process, less congestion, and better utilization of your parking spaces.
- **Cost reduction**: Savings on paper and printing costs as well as reduced staff expenses.
- **Satisfied customers**: Simple, stress-free parking ensures satisfied clients and increases customer loyalty.

YOUR DIGITAL PARKING SYSTEM
GET IN TOUCH:

designa.com

DESIGNA

Giovanna Piras

Dear Reader,

This year is shaping up to be another interesting one for our industry. With technological advancements transforming how we operate, and challenges being overcome every day, 2025 holds huge potential for all of us. Let's embrace this journey of adaptation and innovation together!

And there is no better place to do that than this 17-18 September at the highly anticipated 21st European Parking Conference & Exhibition in Brussels. This will be a fantastic chance to collaborate and dive into the dynamic topics reshaping our industry today. Prepare to engage with representatives from both the public and private sectors, ask your burning questions, and enrich your understanding of every facet of parking. For those companies considering whether to come, let me assure you: this is a must-attend event that you won't want to miss!

My company, Automatic Systems, will be a Silver Sponsor and has already reserved its booth. I am thrilled to be going there representing not only my company, but also as one of the EPA Board's newest elected members. I am proud to be the first female – and hopefully the first of many – to join the Board. While it's true that our industry has historically attracted a largely male workforce, let's celebrate the fact that women have always been a vital part of this field. What's exciting is the increasing visibility of women in parking. This year, I am delighted to announce the planned founding of E-WIP (European Women in Parking), following the example of our member "the BPA". Although we are in the early stages of planning and aim to formally launch at the EPA Conference, I truly believe this initiative will encourage and inspire more women in the industry to become visible.

Up to now, most of our Board members have come from parking management. With my background at Automatic Systems, a global leader in vehicle access systems (for pedestrian, vehicle, and cycle access), I'm excited to represent the industrial aspect of our business and I take pride in being a strong advocate for parking equipment. Together, we can encourage innovation and make a real impact in the industry!

In line with the view of EPA President Nigel Williams, there is no doubt that the future of parking is digital. However, in our efforts to keep up with progress, we must remember that not all locations are ready to be fully computerized, and there remains a significant demand for cash payments, physical barriers, and paper receipts. This can be due to many things, including cultural differences, the remoteness and/or size of the carpark, the customer's age, etc., and we mustn't forget about those people who continue to use more traditional parking equipment.

I also want to stress the importance of favoring European-based partners whenever possible, thus giving value to our continent. At Automatic Systems, 90% of our suppliers are located in Europe, providing us with quality materials that our customers value and appreciate. I encourage other companies to do the same. Remember, we are, after all, the **European** Parking Association! This approach will ensure that Europe continues to be admired in the global parking sector and recognized for its high standards and quality.

I look forward to meeting and connecting with you in Brussels this September!

Best regards,

Giovanna PIRAS
EPA Board Member
International Key Account Manager
Automatic Systems (EPA Bronze Corporate Member)

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Title photo: Shutterstock

INDIGO

Acquisition of Smovengo Completed

INDIGO Infra, a subsidiary of INDIGO Group, which previously held 40 per cent of Smovengo's share capital, announces it has finalized the acquisition of all the shares and shareholders' loans in Smovengo from its co-shareholders Mobivia, Fifteen and Marfina as well as the acquisition from Fifteen of the business assets related to the solutions and equipment necessary to the "Vélib'" self-service bikes. This combined operation enables INDIGO Infra to hold 100 per cent of Smovengo's capital and to strengthen Smovengo on the control over its entire value chain.

© franckpoupart / Shutterstock.com

Since 2018, Smovengo operates the "Vélib'" self-service bikes on behalf of the Syndicat Autolib' Vélib' Métropole (now Agence Métropolitaine des Mobilités Partagées), covering the City of Paris and 65 municipalities of the Greater Paris Metropolitan Area, until 2032. With 20,000 bikes, almost 48 million journeys and more than 150 million kilometres travelled in 2023, Smovengo is the operator of the world's largest docked bicycle sharing contract and a key player in low-carbon mobility. ■

Smovengo operates the "Vélib'" self-service bikes in the City of Paris and 65 municipalities of the Greater Paris Metropolitan Area.

Interparking

Among the Top 10 Charging Networks in Belgium for 2025

© Alexandros Michailidis/Shutterstock.com

According to Chargemap's 2025 ranking, Interparking is among the top 10 charging networks in Belgium, based on feedback from thousands of users across Europe. The company is particularly proud to be the first car park operator to appear in this ranking, alongside other key players in the electric vehicle charging industry.

132,000 unique users and 460,000 ratings contributed to this ranking, recognizing the quality and reliability of the services provided. Interparking says: "This recognition highlights our commitment to making electric mobility simpler, more accessible, and consistently aligned with the expectations of our users". ■

Q-PARK

Q-Park Acquires French Company SAGS

SAGS, the fourth-largest player in the French parking market, was taken over by Q-Park. With this acquisition, Q-Park consolidates its position as a major player in parking and urban mobility in western Europe and in France specifically. The merger will significantly increase the provider's presence in the entire value chain of off-street and on-street business activities. It is also hoped that the company will be able to respond more effectively to tenders from municipal authorities. The acquisition also strengthens regional presence in France, particularly in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes area thanks to the specific and unique operational capabilities of SAGS' alpine teams and in Île-de-France (Paris region).

Frank De Moor, CEO of Q-Park, said: "This major French acquisition is an important step in Q-Park's development in France and Europe". Michèle Salvadoretti, Managing Director of Q-Park France, said: "We are proud of this acquisition and very pleased to welcome the SAGS teams, a company that is recognised and appreciated in our business".

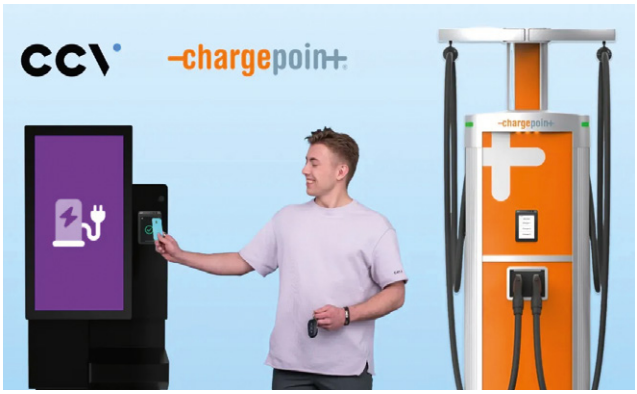
© Q-Park

Q-Park France expands its presence.

Q-Park reached agreement for the full purchase of SAGS and has conducted a thorough due diligence process which resulted in the deal completion on 9 December 2024.

According to the company, Q-Park France has around 400 car parks in its portfolio and manages approximately 300,000 parking spaces, of which 150,000 are on-street. In addition, there are currently around 2,000 charging stations for electric vehicles and a further 2,000 are planned for the next two years. ■

CCV and ChargePoint Partner Up



© CCV

With Cloud-Connect EV charging, the partnership between CCV and ChargePoint facilitate the seamless implementation of these payment solutions. Both companies are bringing credit and debit card payments to the EV charging industry with ChargePoint's be.ENERGISED CPMS and CCV's payment solutions for EV charging. With the common solution, the partners want to provide an easy-to-understand interface for EV drivers to pay for a charging session, as simple as checking out at a grocery store, without the need of online accounts, mobile apps or charge passes/tags. Through the cloud-based integration between ChargePoint's be.ENERGISED and CCV, the solution can be constantly improved and kept up-to-date with new regulatory and end-user requirements, giving operators and manufacturers more room to focus on their core business of managing and producing charging stations.

CCV is an international payment solutions provider servicing over 600,000 businesses with end-to-end payment solutions across Europe. For EV charging, CCV provides payment terminals which can be integrated via cloud or via hardware into the charging stations. ChargePoint is a leading provider of networked charging solutions with more than 300,000 EV charging solutions under management. ■

Opcharge Expands in Dutch Municipalities

In cooperation with the municipality of Noordwijk, Opcharge will place charging stations based on the needs of residents. Thanks to a new partnership, residents of Noordwijk can now apply for a charging station via Opcharge, offering residents the opportunity to use sustainable charging solutions. By providing the installation free of charge, Opcharge aims to lower the threshold for switching to electric driving. The cooperation between Opcharge and Gemeente Noordwijk is in line with the ambition to make electric driving more accessible and to reduce CO_2 emissions in the region.

The same agreement was reached earlier with the municipalitis of Woensdrecht and Veere, whose residents can also apply for a charging station via Opcharge. ■

© Patrick Herzberg / Shutterstock.com

View of Noordwijk beach with skyline and ferris wheel

APCOA

6,000+ More Car Parking Spaces Available at Dublin Airport

Having been out of action since 2020, the Dublin Airport Car Park re-opens to customers on 10th March 2025. Operating under the 'Park2Travel' branding, the facility with more than 6,100 parking spaces is managed by APCOA, which claims to be Europe's largest car park company with experience in the airport sector across the continent.

The newly re-opened site will be a welcome addition to the existing infrastructure at Dublin airport, providing travellers with an additional 42 acres of parking just 1.5 km from the airport terminal and connected by frequent shuttle buses at no additional charge. The prebooking website www.park-2travel.ie allows customers to reserve their parking.

© APCOA

The newly reopened site will provide 42 acres of parking just 1.5km from Dublin Airport.

Neil Cunningham, Managing Director APCOA Ireland commented: "We are delighted to have been appointed to manage this valuable asset, increasing the supply of parking to meet the growing demand at Dublin airport and giving customers a reliable and convenient parking experience."

London Luton Airport

APCOA has also won a further five-year contract with London Luton Airport, continuing the management of parking related services that it had overseen since 2008. Alongside the existing responsibilities for car park management, priority valet parking operation, enforcement services, customer service centre support and management of bussing services, the new contract will further extend APCOA's remit to encompass management of the central terminal area. ■

In Memoriam: Donald Shoup

On 6 February 2025, the world of parking lost its most renowned, respected and qualified parking reform pioneer: Donald Shoup, distinguished professor emeritus of urban planning, who taught and researched at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) for decades, died in Los Angeles after a brief illness at the age of 86.

Much of this prestige flowed from his landmark book "The High Cost of Free Parking," first published in 2005 and revised in 2011. "I don't like paying for parking," he said with a shrug according to Los Angeles Times. "But free parking is ultimately not beneficial."

Shoup was born in 1938 in Long Beach. In 1968, Shoup earned a PhD in economics at Yale and, in six years, became a professor at UCLA. He remained there his entire career, retiring in 2015.

Speaker at EPA Congresses

Donald Shoup dedicated his activities to parking – as an author, lecturer, and speaker at international events. Unforgettable were his key note speeches at EPA Congresses in Malaga 2019, Turin 2011 and Vienna 2009.

Former EPA President Emeritus, Laurence A. Bannerman wrote: "We can only thank Donald for having shaken up the public authorities and the parking industry with regards to the value of urban space and the power of paid parking as a management tool. Donald took the discussion on 'parking' beyond the boundaries of our industrial sphere, turning the discussion – with good doses of humor and his exceptional oratory capacity – into an interesting, lively and important topic. None have ever got the message across as well as he has."

"All those who have had the good fortune to be in touch with such a marvelous person will cherish all the memories of times spent together, his sharp spirit of observation, his humor, his kindness and insight. Donald will certainly be missed immensely by many. Thank you Donald, RIP", Bannerman added. ■

© EPA

Donald Shoup at the EPA Congress in Málaga 2019

People in Parking

Martin Bemba

New Managing Director at Scheidt & Bachmann Parking Solutions GmbH

Martin Bemba has been appointed Managing Director of **Scheidt & Bachmann Parking Solutions GmbH**, Germany with effect from 1 January 2025. The team is already familiar with Martin Bemba, as he has been with the company since March 2024. He succeeds **Martin Kammler**, who will take on the role of Group CEO for Scheidt & Bachmann per 1 July 2025.

Scheidt & Bachmann has produced a video to introduce Martin Bemba. Scan the QR Code or follow the link to YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/IOp4ENNAV0Y

David Herbert has decided to step down from his current role as Chief Executive Officer of **Unity5** at the end of the financial year, 31 March 2025. **Mark Wilson**, who joined the company in July 2023 as Chief Commercial Officer, will assume the role of CEO, taking over the day-to-day operations. David Herbert, who co-founded Unity5 in 2010 with Lukasz Kieruczenko, will remain actively involved in the company as Vice Chairman and Acting Chief Technology Officer (CTO). Lukasz Kieruczenko will continue as Chief Innovation Officer.

Mark Wilson

Cameron Clayton, current CEO of EasyPark Group, has been appointed as the CEO of the new joint company with Flowbird. **Frédéric Beylier**, the current CEO of Flowbird Group, is leaving the company. ■

Cameron Clayton

EasyPark Group Acquires Flowbird and Parkopedia

At the beginning of the year, EasyPark Group announced the completion of its strategic acquisition of Flowbird Group. Cameron Clayton, current CEO of EasyPark Group, has been appointed as the CEO of the new joint company. Frédéric Beylier, the current CEO of Flowbird Group, is leaving the company.

"Today marks a step toward improving space utilization worldwide as EasyPark Group and Flowbird come together as one team. Our broader set of offerings will empower our customers to optimize mobility and reinvest in public transportation, greenspaces and the revitalization of urban centres. Together, we'll make cities more liveable," says Cameron Clayton, CEO of EasyPark Group (read more on page 12/13).

"As I step aside after a thrilling growth journey with the Flowbird teams, I'm confident that the future of the joint company holds more promising adventures and successes with its talented and dedicated people," says Frédéric Beylier, CEO of Flowbird Group.

EasyPark acquires Parkopedia

Recently, EasyPark Group has also announced the acquisition of Parkopedia. The Swedish company says it wants to use in-car technology to enable a seamless, data-driven mobility experience.

Parkopedia has been collecting and aggregating data from on-street parking for almost two decades. Since its foundation in 2007, the company has developed into a leading global provider of connected car services.

Cameron Clayton, CEO of EasyPark Group, says: "Parkopedia's in-car data integration and payment technology, coupled with our digital parking solutions and on-street parking equipment, allows us to address the entire driver experience, and we are excited to share this platform with our current and future partners. Together, we will continue making driver journeys smoother and making an open platform for the whole of the global mobility industry."

© EasyPark

EasyPark and Parkopedia want to further optimise the driving experience with integrated in-car solutions.

Eugene Tsyrklevich, Founder and CEO of Parkopedia, said: "This is a transformative moment for data-driven mobility. Together with EasyPark Group, we are expanding upon our combined capabilities, providing new products and features, built on highly accurate data and payment expertise, that enhance connected car services and data monetization opportunities across municipalities and the automotive industry."

Vitruvian Partners, Verdane and Searchlight Capital Partners L.P., the investment firms that own the joint company, support both the acquisitions. The parties have agreed not to disclose the terms of the transaction.

EasyPark Group partners with Hubject

EasyPark Group has also announced a strategic partnership with Hubject, a global market leader in electric vehicle (EV) interoperability. This collaboration is intended to provide a smoother journey for drivers of electric vehicles using EasyPark, by enabling them to park and charge at more than 600,000 stations across Europe. Access to Hubject's network will enable EasyPark to offer parking and charging across multiple European countries, further supporting EasyPark's commitment to a smarter and more sustainable urban mobility experience.

"We are excited to partner with EasyPark Group to extend our eRoaming solution to more EV users across Europe. By working together, we can streamline charging access and deliver reliable mobility to a growing audience", says Christian Hahn, CEO of Hubject.

As part of the partnership, it is planned that all EasyPark customers will be able to charge at more than 600,000 stations on the European mainland, expanding EasyPark's Parking and Charging service beyond its existing locations in Sweden, Norway and Slovenia.

More parking space through partnership with XPark

In the Netherlands, EasyPark has started a cooperation with XPark, supplier of a parking management system for owners and managers of car parks. In the course of this the EasyPark app allows users to access XPark sites in the Netherlands. XPark has 70 sites equipped with a parking system, mainly at office buildings closed by a barrier. More and more of these are being opened to the public. In the first six months, this should be possible at 12 locations. When users have license plate recognition enabled in their EasyPark account, the license plate will be read on arrival and XPark will ensure the barrier opens. It also automatically starts the parking session in the app.

Michael Stark, Country Director of EasyPark Netherlands, explains: "Thanks to our cooperation with XPark, we offer our users more parking options." Peter Peddemors, Managing Director of XPark, says: "With XPark, owners always know how busy their premises are. This allows them to make their empty spaces available to people who want to park at quiet times without any worries. The link with EasyPark enables a huge group of parkers to use these spots. Which of course also makes the model a lot more attractive for our customers, the site owners." ■

THE information sources for parking professionals

- THE trade journal for the German speaking region
- THE parking magazine with an European view

Parken aktuell

- specialist magazine for parking
- independent, objectively and technically sound
- average of 6.25 readers per copy, 23,000 in total*

*Results of a reader survey

Parkingtrend

- official organ of the European Parking Association (EPA)
- international trade journal
- editorial team of EPA members and technical editors

Meet us at PARKEN 2025!

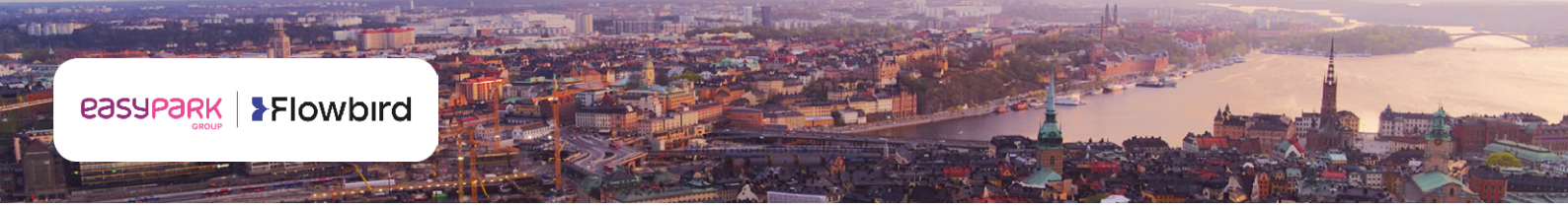
parken-aktuell.de

Parkraum-Management • Konzeption • Technik

- the online presence of the magazine
- weekly news updates
- monthly editorial newsletter
- free e-paper archive

maenken kommunikation

www.maenken.com



- PROMOTION -

EasyPark Group and Flowbird Group have announced they will now come together as one organization. In an Open Letter to the Industry, their newly appointed CEO, Cameron Clayton, shares his insights on what this means for their customers and the future of urban mobility.

If you had told me 10 years ago that I would be this passionate about parking, I would not have believed you. We, and by we I mean the incredibly talented team that makes up EasyPark Group, pioneered the mobile parking industry some 20 years ago and laid the foundation of our vision - making cities more livable. Out of context those four words don't mean much, I'll admit. But I invite you to dig deeper into that purpose with me - making cities more livable - and realize the intentions behind it; because once you do it's hard to argue that it's anything other than a fantastic 'north star' that guides us to better serve you, our customers.

All successful cities have at one stage reevaluated their use of space and their mobility plan, but it takes time and collaboration to transform city movement. Movement is at the heart of every city. Most cities existed before cars, buses, trams and subways, and sometimes you can really feel that in how they use space - how it has been reverse engineered for mobility and people. People go to work, meet friends, go shopping and build lives with their loved ones. But as cities grow they get busier, more polluted and space becomes scarce. Movement and travel becomes slow and inefficient - more of a chore than something that flows seamlessly and 'just works' without people having to think about it. Our purpose is simple. We think about it constantly, so people don't have to and businesses can focus on connecting with customers; we live it and breathe it 365 days a year in an effort to make cities easier to navigate and better for businesses to thrive in.

Every curb, street, garage and station is different. Every city has different infrastructure, different pain points, and different mobility aspirations. Until now, EasyPark Group and Flowbird have shared the same vision of helping cities, but have done it in very different ways. This shared vision is why Flowbird and EasyPark Group complement each other so well. We're on a journey now to build the world's leading mobility platform together; where data, insights, technology, payments and more user-choice are behind the experiences of every person who drives, or takes the bus or train in a city. Wherever you go on your journey, we'll be there. The combined capabilities of our services means we'll be able to address the challenges growing cities face, but on a global scale; simplifying digital payments, supporting policy changes, using data to move traffic from streets to garages, and enabling reinvestment in public transportation and urban greenspaces - all of these are vital for a livable city, but none of them are achievable in isolation. We work with cities to solve these challenges and improve the lives of their citizens in the process. This letter is my personal invitation to cities, transportation authorities, and organizations across the mobility industry, to join us on this journey; it won't happen overnight, but we're starting, today.

We don't want to just be a bigger company, but a better company. This is a continuous journey. We're now laying the new foundations of a leading global mobility platform and coming together as one organization. I'm excited about the next few months and what the future holds. Together, EasyPark Group, Flowbird and our city partners will keep growing to make an even bigger difference.

Together, we'll make cities more livable.

Cameron Clayton
CEO, EasyPark Group

Interview with EasyPark

"A Rising Tide Raises all Boats"

At the beginning of the year EasyPark released an Open Letter to the industry addressing their acquisition of Flowbird, vision for the business, and plans for the future (on left side, page 12). Parking Trend International's Chief Editor Marko Ruh sat down with Cameron Clayton, CEO of the new joint company, to follow up on the letter's contents and what it means for the Industry.

Marko: In your "Open Letter to the Industry" you spoke of a "fantastic north star" when talking about "making cities more livable". But what does this mean? What are the concrete goals?

Cameron: I could talk about making cities more livable for hours, but I'll try to keep it brief! The reason I love the ideal of making cities more livable is because it is almost unobtainable; It's subjective, it's continuous – and that means we're always going to be striving for more. The concrete goals of it are whatever a city needs; reduce unnecessary parking spaces to make room for housing or green areas; commercialise and regulate parking so cities can reinvest in public transport or reduce traffic and emissions to improve air quality. A north star is meant to be this unchanging guide that is out of reach, but still a constant reference point on your journey. That's exactly what making cities more livable is for us, it's what we ask ourselves every time we make a big decision – will this help make cities more livable.

> ***"You can make hundreds of different dishes from the same five ingredients."***
>
> *Cameron Clayton*

Marko: And is earning money also included on this journey?

Cameron: Money is always a part of a business' journey. What's important is what you do with it – and we do some pretty cool stuff with it. Don't get me wrong, paying our employees and keeping the lights on is number one on the list, but after that we do so much more; data collection to help cities make informed decisions about their inventory, hardware R&D to create more ergonomic P&D interfaces, thought leadership campaigns to influence policy and improve lives. That's the exciting stuff.

Marko: You said in your letter that every city is different, "no one size fits all". How can EasyPark deal with that?

Cameron: Every city is different, but the solutions to their mobility problems are all the same. It's like cooking; you can make hundreds of different dishes from the same five ingredients – all you need to do is learn how. It's the same in mobility. No matter how young or mature a city's mobility ecosystem may be, they will always need the same key ingredients to make their city more livable – Regulated Parking, Quality Public Transport, Seamless Digital Integrations, Reliable Partners, and Insightful Data; each city just need different amounts, in different combinations, and at different stages of their growth.

Marko: Together with Flowbird you want nothing less than to build the "world's leading mobility platform". What should competitors think about that?

Cameron: I hope they're aspiring to the same thing. A rising tide raises all boats as the saying goes. Competition is vital to any market – that's why we are championing Open Markets in the Parking Industry around the world. We want to see and feel our competitors growing, and testing us just like we are them. That's what fuels innovation and stability in any industry.

Marko: You recently announced the acquisition of Parkopedia too, how does this fit into your plans? After these acquisitions. What happens next?

Cameron: You're right, Parkopedia has joined the team now along with Flowbird and EasyPark Group. They're the market leader in in-car technology and play a crucial role in how motorists experience parking in and navigating a city. Integrating their knowledge and expertise alongside EasyPark – the market leader in digital payments – and Flowbird, the market leader in mobility hardware, will make our offering even more valuable to businesses, cities, and drivers. That's just one of the many ways that together we'll be able to make cities more livable. ■

Cameron Clayton, Chief Executive Officer

© EasyPark

Cameron has been the CEO of EasyPark Group since 2022. He has many years of experience in the tech business and in leading global organizations, most recently as CEO of The Weather Company, the world's largest private weather company. He was responsible for building weather.com into a top 10 website in the world, and he also led them to their partnership with Apple and Android, which made the Weather app the third most downloaded app in the world. In addition, he has been General Manager of IBM's partner ecosystem, and he successfully helped lead IBM's integration of Red Hat building Red Hat Marketplace.

Digitalisation of Parking Management

From Ticketless to Driverless

The digitalisation of parking management is in full swing. All over Europe, physical and mechanical systems are being replaced by digital solutions. Where parking tickets, barriers and pay machines used to be necessary, video cameras and smartphones are now sufficient thanks to intelligent technologies. With this, the parking industry is on the threshold of the Internet of Things, controlled by artificial intelligence (AI).

© Shutterstock

We spoke with Theo Thuis, Chair of EPA's Scientific Committee and MD Innovation of Q-Park. He is convinced, that AI and IoT will move the attention from the driver to the (electric) vehicle. In the near future the vehicle is always identified by LPR/ANPR (licence plate recognition/automatic number plate recognition), regardless of whether the licence plate number is already known or not.

According to Theo, Automated Valet Parking (AVP) is part of this integrated programme. The Enhancing Automated Valet Parking platform (EAVP)[1] enables parking operators, cities and mobility hubs to use existing urban space more efficiently. "We are currently working on further developing AI-based parking into AVP parking by developing a globally standardised interface between the vehicle and the parking infrastructure, based on our APDS standard," explains the forward thinker Theo Thuis.

OEMs are producing smarter vehicles that are connected to the infrastructure in which the vehicles move – including roads, motorways, tunnels, etc. – and the infrastructure in which they are parked – on- or offstreet, in- or outdoors. The identification is done via the vehicles. They will be able to pre-book access rights to neighbourhoods and park- ➜

With the preinstallation for INTELLIGENT PARK PILOT, the Mercedes-Benz EQE is prepared for driverless Automated Valet Parking (AVP; SAE Level 4).

The DRIVE PILOT from Mercedes-Benz can take over the driving dynamics on the right-hand lane of German motorways at speeds of up to 95 km/h and follow another vehicle.

➜ ing rights for where the vehicle is parked. In the EU programmes this is referred to as CCAM (Cooperative, Connected and Automated Mobility) in the transport sector[2].

Existing AI Applications

In response to our question about which applications AI is already being used for in the parking sector, Theo Thuis replies that a lot of it has to do with whether sensors and cameras are available to generate data. The biggest challenge is then how to extract information from this large amount of data.

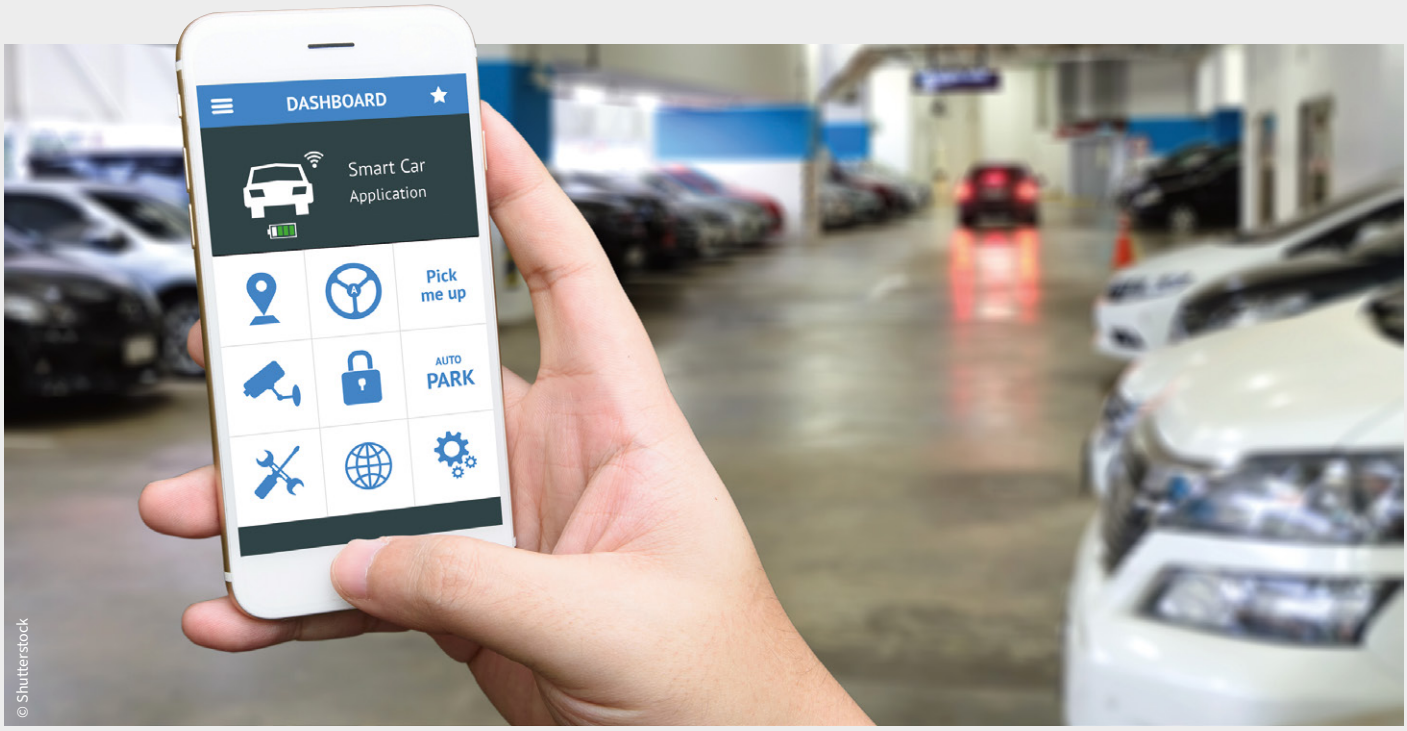
In principle, Theo sees 5 groups of existing applications of AI in parking.

1) **Safety:** reducing the risk of accidents if all vehicles are equipped with sensors and warn the driver of all kinds of obstacles in the car park; identifying unwanted individuals; fire detection.
2) **Capacity management:** optimising the available space. More vehicles can be parked in the same space, about 17% more with automated valet parking; more efficient use of existing space by identifying occupied and free spaces, including for electric vehicle charging points.
3) **Revenue management:** charging of electric vehicles; dynamic pricing; pre-ordering; tailored offers for specific customer groups.
4) **Operational efficiency:** Smarter monitoring; detection of waste; informing customers to find vehicles in huge facilities; corrective maintenance, such as defective barriers, doors or lifts, etc.; cleaning by AI robots, preventive maintenance.
5) **Improving multimodality:** networked mobility, smooth, comfortable and seamless connection of different modes of transport; mobility solutions for the last mile (remote ride hailing); micromobility.

Smart cameras are a prerequisite for many digital processes in parking space management.

Some AI applications are already available, but they will improve in the next few years, says Theo Thuis. In addition, new applications will emerge that focus primarily on reducing operating costs, including through savings in personnel costs and more efficient planning of other costs.

The opportunities for the parking industry are enormous. Customers and drivers expect more efficiency and more comfort from connected vehicles, which will be a kind of



Apps, smartphone, ANPR cameras and AI: the digital tools for parking management

iPhone on wheels, as Tesla is already doing, according to Theo Thuis. However, these innovations require all possible rules and regulations to define the roadmaps. Due to the new president in the US, these are under a lot of pressure and we will have to wait and see how Europe reacts to this. It will be interesting to see how the UK will respond, says Thuis. Perhaps the UK could become an innovative testing ground for the introduction of new applications in the EU.

What is EPA's role in this? The EPA working groups are in the middle of these developments. New members are joining them to discuss and develop specific roadmaps for the parking industry itself.

Personal View

How do you personally see the issue with regard to your industry: a curse or a blessing? Theo Thuis answered: "AI is a real opportunity which is already going on for a couple of years. Privacy issues have to be taken into account, because the sensors and LPR cameras are able to follow the vehicles everywhere in the city to manage and enforce access rights and parking rights in a more effective and efficient way, but we need to be very careful. Big brothers are watching you? We are against strong government control but the global tech companies are already in everybody's daily life, and customers are allowing it – because of convenience and comfort! Cognitive dissonance in double quatro…"

SKIDATA Speaks of AIoT

Thomas Pühringer, Senior Director SKIDATA, who gave a presentation at Intertraffic 2024 as part of the EPA Parking Day there, also took a very interesting approach to this topic. He gave a lot of insights into the development from ticketless, cashless, barrierless, AI based parking into ultimately AVP parking. Thomas Pühringer concludes that the levering power of AI and IoT will change the way we will move and park in the future.

The SKIDATA manager, who is also Head of Solution Portfolio Management sees a convergence of Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things naming it "AIoT – Artificial Intelligence of Things". He is certain that there are important circumstances that reinforce the importance of AIoT. Amongst these are changed customer expectations and, as Theo already mentioned, cars that turned into connected, moving IT systems. Pühringer is also sure that e-mobility will conquer the mass market. Beneath that sustainability drives digitalization and smart city concepts will be further pushed by governments and municipalities.

Smart Parking and Traffic Management

The new AIoT helps people plan their journey and find parking spaces. In the car park, it ensures that customers feel welcome, have easy access and can switch seamlessly to other forms of mobility. If they wish, their electric car can be charged while they park. Payment can be made when and where customers want.

On the other side parking operators can benefit of AIoT through improved operational efficiency, real-time insights, customized user experiences, optimized pricing strategies and enhanced security. Predictive maintenance helps keeping the building sustainable and therefore reducing environmental impact. In the end it's all about data-driven decision-making. Pühringer: "Embracing AI technologies can help parking operators stay competitive in a rapidly evolving industry while delivering better services to customers."

Real-World Examples

Putting theory aside for a moment, there are already examples of how AIoT is being used in practice in the mobility sector. For some time now, a number of providers have offered licence plate recognition cameras and AI algorithms that automate the entry ➜

Special parking space needed: Self-driving vehicles for last-mile delivery

➜ and exit process when parking and facilitate automatic payment. Parkopedia, APCOA and SKIDATA also use AI to analyse parking demand and dynamically adjust prices to optimise revenue and parking space utilisation.

INRIX uses IoT sensors and AI algorithms for real-time traffic information and route optimisation. Several carmakers have self-driving cars with cameras and V2X communication that move automatically based on AI calculations. Driver assistance systems such as adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping assistance and collision avoidance are using IoT sensors and AI.

Infrastructure Interoperability

SKIDATA's Senior Director is certain that by breaking down silos and promoting integration across sectors, cities can unlock the full potential of smart city initiatives and create more livable, sustainable and inclusive urban environments. When connecting car parks with other ecosystems, the highest ISO-certified security standards and compliance with data protection (GDPR) should be observed. To be interoperable with other systems open cloud-based interfaces are needed, also a scalable, high available architecture and hosting. Pühringer cautions: “Without standards and central integrations this will be a mission impossible.”

Future Trends and Opportunities

What is already in process are mobility hubs, ticketless and barrierless access, online booking and payment, in-car parking services, integrated EV-charging services, last mile

What is behind Number Plate Scanners and ANPR?

The way car parks are managed is currently changing. Modern license plate scanners are replacing barriers, parking tickets and parking discs. The technology is simple: license plates are recorded by a license plate scanner when entering and exiting, in compliance with data protection regulations. Operators conveniently manage their parking area online and, for example, grant authorisations for long-term parkers with just a few clicks.

Anyone considering the introduction of licence plate-based parking management or control will inevitably come across terms such as:

- License Plate Recognition (LPR)
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)
- Automatic Vehicle Identification (AVI)
- Car plate recognition (CPR)

The terms and abbreviations refer to the same technology. In principle, this is based on smart Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. Cameras detect whether there is a licence plate in their field of vision and only take a photo in this case. The driver and passengers cannot be recognised. With the help of AI, the system reads the licence plate and stores it together with the vehicle’s entry and exit times, calculating the parking duration. In contrast to parking space sensors, which have to be installed and maintained at each individual parking space, it is sufficient to place number plate scanners at entrances and exits. Another advantage is that parking space control using number plate recognition does not require any control personnel, since violations can be automatically recorded and tracked.

concepts, city low emission zones and bike parkings. Shortly before becoming reality is autonomous driving and parking cars, robotic e-charge, Vehicle to infrastructure communication

Thomas Pühringer describes a development from ticket-based to driverless mobility and parking systems. Steps between are ticketless, barrierless and AI-based technologies. Necessary hardware are LPR cameras and digital displays. Software is needed for mobile apps and websites, in-car apps and V2X communication – and AI. Thomas Pühringer believes that AIoT presents immense opportunities for transforming the way we move and park in our cities. "By leveraging the power of AI and IoT we can create more efficient, sustainable, and user-centric parking and mobility solutions".

Conclusions

Nowadays, digitalisation in parking means much more than just a few digital digits or displays on the pay machine. Parking is becoming more and more data-driven and is supported by AI in numerous processes that run in the background. A development in parking management from the paper ticket to driverless parking – AVP (Automated Valet Parking) – is in full swing, but progress is happening at different speeds and in different ways in different places.

Take Germany, for example: the majority there still prefer to pay in cash, while the country of automobiles is the furthest along in terms of automated driving and the corresponding legal framework. In Western and Northern Europe, and in many places in Southern Europe, customers have long since become accustomed to cashless payment in car parks. There are also plenty of examples of digital innovation in Eastern European countries. Croatia, for example, was one of the first countries where mobile phone parking became popular, Prague authorities have long been using scancars for efficient enforcement.

Regardless of regional differences, almost all digital services have one thing in common: they are extremely customer and user friendly. For entrepreneurs, the main challenge is to manage the changes in order to keep pace with technical, IT, legal and data security developments and to adapt their business models to remain successful. New players are entering the market and want to get involved. If things develop positively, the pie will get bigger for everyone and the slices will be more numerous. ■

[1] www.eavp.eu

[2] See https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-themes/smart-mobility/cooperative-connected-and-automated-mobility-ccam_en

Future vision: Fully autonomous driving car waiting for passengers

© EPA/Alexander Louvet

Retrospect

Reflecting on 2024 – A Milestone Year for EPA!

Author: The EPA Secretariat[1]

2024 has been an extraordinary year for EPA. We kicked it off in **January** with fantastic news: the formal establishment of EPA as an international non-profit organization (aisbl) based in Brussels, accorded by Belgian Royal Decree.

In **April**, we made waves at Intertraffic Amsterdam by hosting the highly successful EPA Parking Day with over 200 participants, a remarkable event for networking and knowledge-sharing. Throughout the year, our working groups have been exceptionally productive. Highlights include:

- The **EVs & Fire Safety WG** released the first-ever Fire Safety Advice Toolbox[2].
- The **Digitalisation & Data WG** published the first three documents in the Parking Data Essentials series[3].
- The **Enforcement WG** recently launched, following impactful EU-level regulatory campaigns on the Cross-Border Enforcement Directive and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities.

Expanding Our Reach across Europe and beyond

EPA representatives actively participated in events across Europe, such as the POLIS Network Annual Conference in Karlsruhe, the NAPCORE Mobility Data Days in Turin, DISCO Project meetings in Thessaloniki and Köln and even the ITS World Congress in Dubai. We also contributed to our national associations' conferences, including the first All-Ireland Parking Show in Dublin, Parkex in Coventry, NORPARK's Annual Conference in Bergen, Bundesverband Parken's Conference in Heidelberg, AIPARK Pdays in Florence, BAPSUM's Conference in Bulgaria and more.

In **September**, we organized our Annual General Assembly in Brussels where we gathered over 80 member delegates, invited relevant EU policymakers for our high-level speaker program, and elected new Board members[4]. Monthly Board meetings and fortnightly Executive Committee (ExCo) meetings, both under the direction of the EPA President Nigel Williams, ensure that EPA remains focused on relevant topics,

grows its influence, and serves the wider parking community.

From a communications perspective, we've enriched Parking Trend International with insightful articles and updates on the vital work of our national associations and corporate members. And we revamped our website to a more mobile-friendly version with further updates planned for 2025.

Growing Membership and Celebrating Achievements

All this could not have been achieved without the support of our members, and the work of our dedicated colleagues, volunteers and our external experts. We are immensely proud that the growth of our membership has surpassed our expectations. As of today we have 21 national associations and over 50 corporate organizations as members. We know that others are planning to join us this year. This is truly amazing as in September 2023 we started the "new" EPA with just 14 founding members!

Shaping the Future of Parking

The parking sector is evolving, becoming a key player in the smart mobility transition. EPA will continue to lead the way in sharing best practices, integrating parking technology with EV charging, optimizing customer journeys, and promoting sustainable mobility hubs. For nearly 40 years, EPA has championed innovation and collaboration, redefining parking as both a mobility service and a mobility platform.

Join the Movement in 2025

2025 is a key year for EPA and the entire European parking sector as we prepare for the 21st European Parking Conference & Exhibition, which will take place on 17-18 September in Brussels[5]. The EPA Secretariat is currently welcoming many confirmations of sponsors and/or exhibitors. We also launched the 2025 EPA Awards and will put on a great "Oscars of the parking sector" ceremony during the Conference[6].

If your organization is ready to impact sustainable urban mobility and parking, connect with industry leaders and the wider community and raise your profiles in the sector, EPA offers a dynamic network to drive change. Corporate Membership comes with exclusive benefits, including logo visibility, networking, magazine features, voting rights, event discounts, and opportunities to engage in essential topics like parking digitalization, electromobility, and more[7].

© Marko Ruh

Annual General Assembly in Brussels: Over 80 member delegates joined the high-level speaker program.

© EPA

Full success: At Intertraffic Amsterdam we hosted the EPA Parking Day with over 200 participants.

To our members, thank you for being a part of EPA and for all your contributions to our activities over the past year – you have our commitment that 2025 is going to be even better! ■

[1] https://europeanparking.eu/secretariat/

[2] Available on https://europeanparking.eu/epa-fire-safety-advice-toolbox-2/

[3] Available on https://europeanparking.eu/parking-data-essentials/

[4] For the current Board composition please see https://europeanparking.eu/board/

[5] https://www.epaconference.eu/

[6] For more information see https://europeanparking.eu/epa-awards/

[7] To learn more about EPA Corporate Membership, please see https://europeanparking.eu/membership-categories/

21st European Parking Conference and Exhibition 2025

Reshaping Urban Space in Brussels

Innovation in urban space management and its role in the future of sustainable mobility across Europe is the theme underpinning the 2025 European Parking Conference and Exhibition taking place in Brussels this Autumn.

Author: Sarah Juggins, former editor of Parking News

This is a coming of age moment for the European Parking Association (EPA) as the event is the 21st edition of its flagship biennial conference and exhibition.

Titled 'Reshaping Urban Space: Delivering sustainable parking management and mobility solutions', the Conference promises to be an inspiring event focused on the future of parking in bustling and constantly evolving city landscapes.

Innovation and dialogue are the two key drivers behind this year's event, which takes place on 17-18 September 2025 in Europe's de facto capital Brussels.

Smart parking management, electromobility solutions, digitalization, multimodal mobility hubs, AI-based parking – the sector's contributions on display will be both expansive and thought-provoking.

Parking Takes Center Stage

To promote dialogue, exchange and collaboration, the conference will feature a central auditorium where industry leaders and experts will present groundbreaking ideas and strategies aimed at revolutionizing urban parking solutions. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in dynamic discussions, exploring topics such as smart parking management, AI, sustainability, and the integration of autonomous technologies into urban environments.

In addition to the main speeches and presentations, a series of breakout rooms will host interactive sessions and workshops where EPA members and sponsors can showcase their expertise and exchange best practices with other stakeholders and policymakers. These more intimate settings will foster open dialogue between speakers and guests, allowing for a deep dive approach into the pressing challenges faced by public authorities, politicians and parking managers.

The challenges that are facing those delivering sustainable parking management and mobility solutions in an ever-shrinking urban space, are the evolving green and digital transitions as well as the practical effects of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) prin-

ciples. By creating a space and time for mobility stakeholders to come together, the EPA Conference and Exhibition really is a place where ideas can emerge and take flight!

Supportive Frameworks

This includes developing policies that promote environmentally friendly practices while integrating cutting-edge technologies into urban mobility systems. As cities strive to become more sustainable, it is crucial for public and private stakeholders to collaborate on creating frameworks that support smart infrastructure, enhance inclusive mobility, and encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport. EPA and its conferences serve as a platform for these discussions, driving forward the conversation on effective strategies for achieving a balance between ecological sustainability and digital innovation.

Over the course of the two-day Conference and Exhibition, delegates can explore the areas of interest that are most relevant to them. Workshops and parallel sessions will cover policy, technological innovation and the work of EPA and its various working groups[1]. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to view what's new in the parking sector and talk to those innovators, designers and manufacturers who are driving the industry forwards.

Explaining why an honest and clear-sighted discussion involving all stakeholders is so essential, EPA Scientific Committee Chair – and Conference program manager – Theo Thuis says: "Cities are growing: more people need more housing, and more business. This means more mobility.

Cities face the challenge of managing this growth in mobility within the confinement of the available urban spaces. Parking management and curb side management constitute an essential part of the measures mix for local authorities to assert control."

Sprucing up Cities

According to Thuis: "No urban mobility strategy will be successful unless it incorporates a good parking strategy. Most European countries and regions have taken steps in the past few years to make parking a central issue in city planning, addressing safety issues, enhancing mobility and fairer ways to share scarce public space, thus creating more efficient transportation, and making cities more attractive. Professional parking management is essential for urban mobility. Cities should push, or continue to push, for parking management to be considered as an integral component of sustainable urban mobility planning. It affects and benefits all citizens: drivers, residents, and users of other modes of transport than the car. Parking is also an essential provider of access to locations that carry economic, social and cultural functions for the city."

In essence, the message from Thuis and the EPA team working behind the scenes is: "Come to Brussels to help shape the future of urban mobility, from the parking perspective and beyond!"[2]

EPA Awards: Eight of the Best

EPA now has a membership of more than 20 national parking associations and in excess of 50 corporate members, so it is only fitting that the EPA Awards reflect the variety of projects, products and services across its membership.

To mark growth, transformation and innovation within the parking sector, the 2025 EPA Awards have expanded from five to eight categories. These include categories to celebrate the digitalisation of parking operations, the advent of smart mobility and initiatives to promote Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) commitments.

The traditional awards for new and renovated parking structures, parking innovation and marketing and communication campaigns continue to showcase all that is good about the operational face of the sector, while the new awards indicate an approach that is stepping forward confidently to embrace change and the opportunities offered by advancing technology.

The 2025 EPA Awards Ceremony will be held in the afternoon on 17 September during the EPA Conference in true Oscars-style and will lead into a networking reception and walking dinner[3]. ■

[1] For example on Electromobility (EVs & Fire Safety), Digitalization & Data and (Cross-Border) Enforcement, https://europeanparking.eu/working-groups/

[2] For more information, including sponsorship and exhibition opportunities, please see https://www.epaconference.eu/

[3] To find out more and submit your application, check out https://europeanparking.eu/epa-awards/

"Proud Member of EPA"

Corporate Members – Join Us!

The European Parking Association (EPA) has been leading the way in Europe's parking sector since 1983! As an umbrella organization, EPA brings together national parking associations and corporate members.

EPA's primary goal is to foster cooperation between professional parking organizations across different European countries. By exchanging professional experience among its members, EPA helps to improve smart parking management and urban mobility across Europe whilst driving innovation and progress in the parking sector. As the parking sector continues to face new and complex challenges, EPA remains committed to making a positive impact on sustainable urban mobility.

Corporate Members of EPA

PLATINUM

APCOA Group
www.apcoa.com

EasyPark Group
www.easyparkgroup.com

INDIGO GROUP
www.group-indigo.com

GOLD

Best in Parking
www.bestinparking.com

GreenPoint
www.greenpointpartners.com

Riverty
www.riverty.com

SILVER

Autopay
www.autopay.io/solutions

Avantpark
www.avantpark.de

Fondation des Parkings
www.geneve-parking.ch/fr

BRONZE

Arivo
https://arivo.co

Automatic Systems
www.automatic-systems.com

Be-Mobile
www.be-mobile.com

Billogram
www.billogram.com

Demondo
www.demondo.com

DESIGNA
www.designa.com

Direct Collection Bailiffs Limited
https://dcbltd.com

EFAFLEX
www.efaflex.com

HUB Parking Technology
www.hubparking.com

Huber Parking
https://huber-parking.com

Imperial Civil Enforcement Solutions
www.imperial.co.uk

Indigo Park Luxembourg
www.group-indigo.com/fr/

Parking Matters Limited
https://parkingmatters.com

Primevest
www.primevestcp.com

Projekt w
www.projekt-w.de

Smart Parking
www.smartparking.com

Join us and see your logo included on the 'Corporate Members list' in the next issue of Parking Trend International! We offer four options for Corporate Membership, each with different levels of benefits. These benefits include acknowledgment of your membership on the EPA website, featuring your company logo, and the right to display a "Proud member of EPA" logo on your own website. As a Corporate Member, you also have the right to vote in the EPA General Assembly and contribute to the association's strategic agenda.

Additionally, you can stand for one of the four Board seats reserved for Corporate Members, attend exclusive EPA networking and information-sharing events, and participate in all EPA activities, including regulatory campaigns and working groups. As a Corporate Member you can get involved with EPA on crucial issues such as parking digitalisation and sustainability, data standards, enforcement, EV charging and fire regulations. ■

For detailed information about the different categories of Corporate Membership see https://europeanparking.eu/membership-categories/

GO

Interparking
www.interparking.com

Q-Park
www.q-park.com

SETEX APARKI
www.gruposetex.es

Skidata
www.skidata.com

GOLDBECK Parking Services
www.goldbeck-parking.de

Scheidt & Bachmann
www.scheidt-bachmann.com

Verra Mobility
www.verramobility.com

BOE Parking
www.boe-parking.at

CAME Parkare
www.cameparkare.com

CCV Group
www.ccv.eu

City Park
https://citypark.gr

coeo Inkasso
www.coeo-group.ai

Commend
www.commend.com

Egis
www.egis-group.com

FairParken
www.fairparken.com

FIFI4PARKING i
www.fifi4parking.nl/

Flowbird Group
www.flowbird.com

Hectronic GmbH
www.hectronic.com

Infotrafic
www.infotrafic.com

Monit Data
www.monitdata.com

Nordisk Profil GmbH
www.nordisk-profil.de

Orbility
www.orbility.com

ParkDots s.r.o.
www.parkdots.com

SpecifAi Parking
www.specifai-parking.com/

Survision
www.survisiongroup.com

VALEO
www.valeo.com

Wemolo GmbH
www.wemolo.com

EPA PLATINUM MEMBER

Q-Park Mobility Hubs – the sustainable mobility solution

Q-Park Mobility Hubs embrace parking and charging of all kinds of vehicles, transform search traffic into destination traffic, and embrace sharing concepts of private and public partners.

Q-Park is a leading off-street parking infrastructure owner and operator with well-managed commercial parking facilities and Mobility Hubs across seven western European countries. It is our purpose to enhance urban liveability and connect communities by providing sustainable mobility solutions and seamless parking services.

With our Mobility Hubs we offer urban solutions for accessibility and liveability: • enabling passenger cars, scooters and bicycles to park off-street, • enabling electric vehicles (cars and bicycles) to charge off-street, • transforming search- to destination-traffic with pre-book options, and • embracing (micro-)mobility to share concepts in our assets.

We support cities with implementing their sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMPs) and address transport and mobility related challenges such as congestion, pollution, charging points, kerbside management and decreasing public budgets. Rather than accommodating traffic, together we shift our focus: • from cars to people (space and greenery), • from passive to active mobility (walking and cycling), • from owned to shared vehicles (sharing and public transport), and • from fossil fuel engines to EV (charging and logistics).

We enhance seamless parking services with digital access and automatic payment, independent of installed parking management systems. Recognised numberplates grant access for our customers and our partners' customers, and payment is automated. Our proprietary Parking as a Smart Service (PaSS) system seeks seamless integration with online and customised sales channels, parking and payment apps, and fleet and visitor portals which allow our partners to manage access to our parking facilities themselves.

Together with mobility partners, whether they are public or private, we seek ways to make sustainable urban mobility successful. Using available off-street space for parking and charging all kinds of vehicles and opening up public space for people playing, walking and cycling.

We have over 170 mobility hubs which provide access to a variety of sustainable mobility solutions. We support urban accessibility, sustainability and liveability as we want to be the most preferred sustainable mobility hub partner.

EPA BRONZE MEMBER

Urban development with our parking data solutions

FROM GUESSWORK TO DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS

Historically, parking policies were built on sporadic occupancy measurements. Today, parking transaction data – both on-street and off-street – is available almost continuously, along with data from tools like scan cars. SpecifAI Parking transforms this raw data into meaningful insights, helping municipalities move beyond assumptions to develop precise, adaptive, and effective parking policies.

DYNAMIC PARKING BALANCE

SpecifAI Parking offers a dynamic parking balance model to help municipalities allocate parking resources more effectively. Using real-time data over the past year, municipalities can ground parking policies in reality rather than relying on guesses. By flexibly allocating public parking during off-peak times, municipalities can integrate private parking provisions and public resources to quickly determine if supply meets demand, making urban planning more efficient.

THE ROI OF SPECIFAI PARKING

Not only does SpecifAI Parking's Intelligence Platform help municipalities optimize urban development, but it also provides a substantial return on investment (ROI). By automating manual processes like reporting, municipalities save time and reduce the need for full-time employees (FTEs). In fact, it's estimated that over $90,000 in labor costs can be saved annually across 10 sites. Additionally, the platform's insights can lead to a 3-5 per cent uplift in revenue from optimized pricing strategies, making it a cost-effective solution for municipalities.

EPA SILVER MEMBER

GOLDBECK multi-storey car parks

With over 40 years of experience in car park construction and its systematised construction method, GOLDBECK, a construction and services company, which operates throughout Europe, enables high quality and maximum flexibility.

Every second multi-storey above-ground car park in Germany is built by GOLDBECK. Whether in city centres or residential areas: GOLDBECK offers comprehensive parking solutions that are characterised by their future-oriented technology and user-friendliness as well as a wide range of design options. Furthermore, GOLDBECK multi-storey car parks are cost-efficient and sustainable.

To make mobility convenient and efficient, GOLDBECK takes a holistic approach to mobility and car park management. That is why the company's range of services not only includes the design and construction of multi-storey car parks but also parking management: GOLDBECK's Parking Services offer a comprehensive range of services for the management of parking areas, from parking and mobility solutions to cost-effective operation and renovation and maintenance services.

GOLDBECK sees car parks as more than just parking spaces, but as node points for modern, sustainable mobility. From experience, GOLDBECK knows how important it is to advance tomorrow's mobility solutions already today. In addition to intelligent car park handling and accounting systems, the car park specialist also offers services for e-charging points, a mobility app and in-house 24/7 support.

GOLDBECK continuously invests the experience gained from construction and operation in the further development of future-proof car park and mobility solutions.

Key facts

- More than 1,300 multi-storey car parks built since foundation (as of September 2024)
- Over 22% less CO_2 emissions compared to conventional construction methods
- 118,500 managed parking spaces
- Installation and operation of more than 1,100 e-charging points
- Inspection of around 600 properties

EPA BRONZE MEMBER

Valeo: A Game Changer with massively useful Innovations

As a leading technology company and trusted partner to automakers and mobility innovators, Valeo is revolutionizing mobility with solutions that make transportation more sustainable, safer, and more accessible worldwide. The company holds a strong technological and industrial leadership in four key areas driving the transformation of mobility: electrification, driving assistance systems, interior experience reinvention, and advanced lighting solutions.

Founded 100 years ago, Valeo has developed all the solutions for a safer and more comfortable driving experience and is more than ever a leader supporting the development of Software-Defined Vehicles (SDV). The Group offers the most complete portfolio of perception technologies of the market, central compute units and zone controllers and a full stack of AI-based software for signal processing, computer vision, and data fusion up to vehicle control with Valeo anSWer.

With extensive expertise in parking solutions, Valeo has already brought several innovations to market, with more in development through strategic collaborations. Our Park4U® automated parking system assists drivers in seamlessly identifying and maneuvering into parking spaces. The latest generation, Trained Park4U, leverages AI-based surround perception for safer and more efficient parking. We also work closely with major OEMs to co-develop next-generation parking experiences, ranging from entry-level to premium solutions, including Level 4 AVP and comprehensive parking software stacks.

We at Valeo strive to contribute daily into bringing digitalization into European parking solutions and the ultimate user experience. In this journey, we are excited to contribute as an active member of the EPA community and seek to form lasting partnerships.

DISCOCURB

Smart and Flexible Curbside Management

DISCO is an ongoing innovation action project co-funded by the European Commission and coordinated by FIT Consulting, focused on upscaling urban logistics and smart planning[1]. It aims to accelerate the transition to decarbonized and digital cities by changing the logistics paradigm through a Physical Internet (PI)-led approach. PI seeks to transform the way physical objects are moved, stored, supplied, and used, ultimately pursuing global logistics efficiency and sustainability.

Author: Paola Astegiano, FIT Consulting,
DISCO Project Coordinator

The concept behind DISCO draws inspiration from the music industry, which has already undergone a full transition from vinyl to streaming, facilitated by metadata platforms capable of sharing royalties, services, and music as an end-to-end commodity. Similarly, through a data-driven "cloud" approach, cities can actively manage infrastructure usage by accessing real-time data, avoiding costly investments, and optimizing land use through proactive infrastructure access control, thereby reducing congestion and overuse. DISCO is deploying a demonstration involving four Starring Living Labs and four Twinning Living Labs, with a package of 23 innovation measures across five DISCO-X innovations, categorized into digital, physical, and business layers. The DISCO-X measures (X = Curb, Proxi, Bay, Estate, and Collection) utilize sensor-enabled infrastructures and Physical Internet collaboration protocols to efficiently allocate city infrastructure, demonstrating the value of dynamic infrastructure management.

Visit DISCO's website for more!

This article focuses specifically on the "DISCOCURB" innovation, which enables the smart and flexible use of curbside space for parking slots, pickup points, and network management. DISCOCURB represents a data-driven, technology-enabled, and dynamic approach to curbside management that enhances land use allocation while leveraging advanced data analytics and digital tools. At least four Living Labs will implement curbside management measures, with Copenhagen and Helsinki currently at the most advanced stage.

Copenhagen's Approach to Smart Curbside Management

Copenhagen has set an ambitious goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2025, requiring a strategic shift towards sustainable urban planning and smart mobility solutions. Implementing smart curbside management is essential to streamline logistics, enhance urban efficiency, and improve liveability while supporting economic growth. A pilot project has been launched in the area around Tivoli Gardens, a central amusement park facing constant logistical challenges due to its high number of visitors. Limited parking and loading zones complicate the management of delivery trucks, service vehicles, and tourist buses. Additionally, construction work at the main delivery entry has further exacerbated these challenges, presenting a unique opportunity to test new solutions. The city is working with *Coding the Curbs*, a startup specializing in curbside management, to transform (un)loading bays into Smart Zones – digital and multifunctional spaces that can be easily reserved by logistics companies, local businesses, and drivers. Outside peak logistics hours, these Smart Zones can be repurposed for car parking, recreation, or shared mobility. The solution comprises three key components:

- **A user-friendly booking platform**, enabling users to reserve Smart Zones in advance or on-site via a QR code.
- **On-street smart signs**, displaying real-time zone availability, supporting ad-hoc bookings, and indicating zone functions.
- **Sensors**, detecting vehicles, providing real-time occupancy data, and supporting enforcement mechanisms.

As the designated location at Tivoli Gardens was smaller than the previous logistics area, implementing digital Smart Zones allowed for better space management. The city also installed sensors to track parking occupancy and report violations to local enforcement authorities. The pilot is currently in the evaluation phase, with key learnings including: location is critical, stakeholders are more likely to engage when there is a clear logistical need; ongoing stakeholder engagement is essential, maintaining regular contact in the local language helps address concerns and anticipate issues; flexibility is key, digital solutions allow for necessary adjustments based on local conditions.

Current analyses are assessing the impact of seasonality in such locations. When the amusement park is closed, these parking slots could potentially serve other purposes, maximizing space utilization.

Helsinki's Data-Driven Approach

Helsinki is focusing on producing data that helps planners understand how loading zones are used, where they should be located, and how street space is utilized for loading and unloading – in- ➜

© DISCO

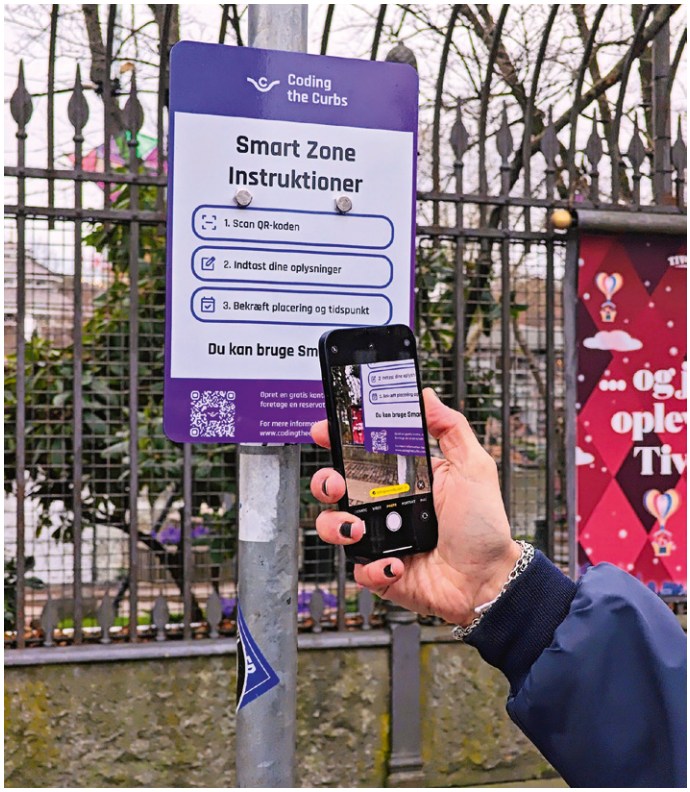
cluding identifying potential safety hazards. To achieve this, the city is installing different types of monitoring equipment across multiple loading zones with the following objectives:

- Data collection: Measuring the number and type of vehicles, as well as their stopping patterns, to support traffic planning.
- Testing sensor technologies: Evaluating various sensor and camera-based solutions, prioritizing movable and easy-to-install equipment that does not require a fixed power supply.
- Providing real-time information: Offering real-time loading zone occupancy data via a dedicated app, enabling drivers to optimize their daily operations. A survey will be conducted to assess whether drivers find this information beneficial.

Additionally, Helsinki is exploring the use of Floating Car Data (FCD) to gain insights into vehicle movement patterns, identifying where trucks and light commercial vehicles (LCVs) drive, stop, and operate. The hypothesis is that FCD can help planners determine optimal locations for new loading zones, identify areas with heavy traffic but inadequate facilities, and analyze the main routes used by LCVs and trucks.

Future Implementations in Barcelona and Padua

In the coming months, Barcelona and Padua will initiate their own DISCOCURB implementations. Barcelona will deploy CCTV cameras in 12 designated DUM (Distribución Urbana de Mercancías) zones, capturing real-time freight vehicle data. Advanced deep learning models will analyze video feeds to detect and track parked vehicles and extract license plate information. This data will be integrated with an existing city app used to reserve and assign DUM parking slots, providing a comprehensive overview of urban logistics patterns.



© DISCO

The city of Copenhagen is working with Coding the Curbs, a startup specializing in curbside management.

© DISCO

Smart curbside management in Copenhagen: Multifunctional spaces can easily be reserved by logistics companies, local businesses, and drivers.

Padua will implement an on-demand system for loading/unloading stalls to accommodate dynamic lockers. Space will be booked through a dedicated webpage, enabling flexible curbside allocation for both dynamic lockers and traditional logistics operations.

As final remark, the DISCOCURB innovation is demonstrating how cities can leverage data-driven strategies to enhance curbside management, making urban logistics more efficient, sustainable, and adaptable. With the integration of smart technologies, dynamic reservation systems, and real-time data analytics, cities like Copenhagen, Helsinki, Barcelona, and Padua are setting new benchmarks in curbside optimization. As the project progresses, insights from these pilots will help refine urban logistics strategies, ensuring that city infrastructure remains responsive to evolving mobility needs while supporting sustainability and economic growth.

Anyone interested in being kept informed is welcome to register for the newsletter through the DISCO website and can also follow the project's developments, events and regular webinars via LinkedIn[2]. It is equally worth noting that a DISCO Knowledge hub has been created which offers several useful resources[3].

The DISCO project will also be featured at EPA's Conference in Brussels this September. ■

Further Information

[1] EPA is one of the 47 partners in the DISCO project, for more information please see https://discoprojecteu.com/.

[2] https://www.linkedin.com/company/disco-project-eu/

[3] https://knowledgeplatform.etp-logistics.eu/course/view.php?id=304

Recommendation by ParkingSwiss

Construction and Renovation of Car Parks

The recently published guide from the Fondation des Parkings is an indispensable tool for construction professionals who want to build and renovate car parks and bicycle parking facilities in Switzerland.

Published by the Fondation des Parkings, and available in French, with a German version coming out in February 2025, the guide draws on the Geneva-based parking operator's 50 years of experience in the field. It is the ideal tool for anyone looking for a high-performance solution that meets the current challenges of the construction sector.

The Guide Offers

- Proven solutions for improving the safety, comfort and durability of structures
- Detailed recommendations for optimising construction, maintenance and operating costs and for simplifying the management of car parks
- Concrete case studies for inspiration

A Practical Tool

The guide was originally created by the engineers, technicians and experts of the Fondation des Parkings for internal use and for their contractors, engineers and architects. Today, it is aimed at a wider audience, including:

- Contractors and client assistants
- Engineering and architectural firms
- General contractors
- Providers of fee systems
- companies that carry out soil treatment
- car park operators

Tips, Ideas and Case Studies

The guide contains practical tips for the successful implementation of construction or renovation projects and innovative ideas for optimising the operation and management of facilities. It also includes detailed guidelines and best practice solutions for planning modern, functional car parks that meet user expectations.

The guide provides access to a wealth of practical and proven information, based on many years of practical experience. Construction professionals will find specific case studies, detailed recommendations and ideas to ensure high-quality execution. The aim is not only to make the structures safer, to improve user comfort and the durability of the constructions, but also to optimise the costs of construction, maintenance and operation of car parks.

50 Years of Collective Expertise

The guide is based on the experience gained by the Fondation des Parkings over more than 50 years, not only in the design and construction of structures, but also in their operation. This is the only way to truly test and verify the technical decisions.

The guide strictly adheres to the construction standards applicable in Switzerland (VSS, SIA, AEIAI, SWKI standards, etc.), in particular VSS 40 291 and 40 292 for the design and equipment of car parks. ■

Orders

Fondation des Parkings Secrétariat de direction
Carrefour de l'Etoile 1
P.O. Box 1775 - 1211 Geneva 26
secretariat-dg@fondation-parkings.ch
Price: CHF 350 incl. VAT
Please indicate the language required: French, German

Working Group

No More Free Rides: Closing the Loophole in Cross-Border Parking Enforcement

Foreign drivers failing to pay for parking in another EU country is an all-too-familiar issue. Unlike road safety violations, which are covered under the EU's Cross-Border Enforcement (CBE) Directive[1], unpaid parking fines still fall through the cracks. EPA is working to change that.

Author: Dan Wolff, Eurotran

The Current Challenge

For years, local authorities, particularly those in border regions, have been struggling with an enforcement gap. While Member States can exchange vehicle registration data for road-safety-related traffic offences, parking offences often remain excluded. The result? Significant revenue losses for cities and municipalities, frustration among local drivers who must pay their fines, and a system that allows non-resident motorists to bypass their obligations entirely – leading to a feeling of impunity, possibly not only towards parking regulations.

In March 2023, the European Commission proposed a revision of the CBE Directive, aimed at improving enforcement of road safety laws. Despite intense engagement by EPA and its national parking associations, parking fines were left out of the final text, with EU policymakers maintaining that the directive should remain focused solely on road safety. This was further reinforced during the institutional negotiations, where only traffic safety violations such as hit-and-run offences were included in the expanded scope. Only "dangerous parking or stopping" was added to the scope, with a clear reference in the legal definition that failure to pay parking fees is not considered.

Enforcement via scancar in Prague

EPA's Position and Actions

EPA is determined to challenge this status quo. Its key objectives are:

- **Challenging restrictions on private enforcement:** The introduction of a two-year transition period leading to the prevention of private companies from handling enforcement could weaken the system's effectiveness. EPA is advocating for a balanced approach that allows public authorities to work with private service providers wherever they wish to do so.
- **Making data-sharing effective and mandatory:** The current patchwork of bilateral agreements between Member States is ineffective. EPA argues for a centralized EU system that ensures unpaid parking fines are pursued across borders just like road safety violations.
- **Addressing the environmental and urban mobility implications:** The failure to enforce parking regulations exacerbates congestion, increases emissions, and penalizes municipalities attempting to implement sustainable transport policies.

To drive these goals forward, EPA has been taking concrete steps:

- **Drafting a position paper:** With support from EU consulting agency Eurotran, EPA will develop a framework that its members can use to push for change at both EU and national levels.

- **Engaging continuously with EU institutions:** EPA intends to remain in close contact with the European Commission, European Parliament, and Member States to push for policy updates. This includes participating in the EC Expert Group on Urban Mobility (EGUM), which is evaluating enforcement gaps in Urban Vehicle Access Regulations (UVARs). More generally, EPA will remind EU institutions of their commitment to drive a pro-business and internal market agenda during their ongoing mandate covering 2024-2029.
- **Deploying a multichannel advocacy approach:** This includes leveraging digital solutions, strengthening bilateral agreements, and mobilizing municipalities to support enforcement reforms.

© Shutterstock

Traffic warden in the UK places a parking ticket on the window of a car.

Key Hurdles and Next Steps

Despite progress, major roadblocks remain. The revised CBE Directive continues to exclude parking violations, and the definition of *dangerous parking* remains too narrow. The current legal framework still relies on national-level agreements, leading to an inconsistent patchwork approach across the EU. Similarly, debates around Vehicle Access Restrictions (VARs) and Low Emission Zones (LEZs) have exposed enforcement gaps, particularly for non-resident drivers.

Looking ahead, EPA will:

- **Advocate for parking regulations to be included in future revisions:** The European Commission is set to review the directive's application by 2030, offering another opportunity for change. EPA will also argue for the inclusion of parking regulations in future legislative amendments, demonstrating their link to air quality and urban congestion issues.
- **Strengthen partnerships with cities and municipalities:** Cities are among the hardest hit by unpaid parking fines. EPA is working with their representative associations POLIS and Eurocities to mobilize their support to create political momentum. Several municipalities have already raised concerns about the loss of local revenues and the inability to enforce their own regulations on visiting motorists.
- **Explore alternative enforcement mechanisms:** Beyond the CBE Directive, EPA is investigating legal alternatives such as the Framework Decision on Financial Penalties and the EUCARIS exchange mechanism[2] to facilitate cross-border enforcement. EPA is also exploring potential synergies with the European Electronic Toll Service (EETS), which has already established a cross-border data exchange system for unpaid tolls.
- **Monitor implementation of the existing legal framework:** EPA is committed to map how cross-border enforcement of parking violations are currently pursued across Member States, identifying gaps, and preparing recommendations for future policy updates.

Conclusion

The fight for fair and efficient cross-border parking enforcement is far from over. EPA's advocacy is gaining traction in Brussels and beyond, but ensuring that all motorists are held accountable—regardless of where they park—remains an ongoing battle. The revised directive's failure to include parking in its scope is a missed opportunity for EU policymakers, but EPA remains committed to leveraging all available legal and policy avenues to address this ongoing challenge.

As EU policymakers prepare for future legislative discussions following the June 2024 elections, EPA will continue to push for reforms that eliminate free rides and ensure a level playing field for all drivers. Through ongoing cooperation with municipalities, EU institutions, and private stakeholders, EPA aims to close the enforcement gap and establish a fairer, more efficient system for cross-border parking compliance.

For this purpose the EPA Enforcement WG was created late last year. It will continue its activities this year and will ensure that this important topic is also on the agenda of the 21st European Parking Conference & Exhibition on 17-18 September in Brussels[3]. Any EPA member interested in joining the Enforcement WG is more than welcome to contact the EPA Secretariat! ■

Further Information

[1] For the new CBE Directive, adopted in December 2024, please see https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/3237/oj/eng

[2] For more information on EUCARIS, the EUropean CAR and driving licence Information System, please see https://www.eucaris.net/

[3] https://www.epaconference.eu/

HUB Parking

Exemplary Parking Solution for French Supermarkets – Ticketless

© HUB

Among the Jupiter systems recently installed by HUB Parking Technology France, one stands out for its efficiency and convenience, according to the supplier, in a ticketless configuration: a supermarket car park in Castelnau-le-Lez, Occitanie region of France.

In large cities and smaller towns alike, it is essential for a supermarket to offer its customers easy access to its parking and to manage the flow of incoming and outcoming vehicles even during peak hours – and not just for customers. Depending on its location, in residential areas or close to public transport stops, it can also be affected by traffic from those "just" looking for a parking space but not intending to visit the supermarket itself.

The Project in Castelnau-Le-Lez

On the outskirts of Montpellier, in Castelnau-Le-Lez, the retail point of a well-known chain has completely transformed an existing supermarket. HUB France worked with the local architecture firm to redesign the parking layout and simplify access to the 80 available parking spaces. Located near the city's tram stop, the parking is also convenient for travelers and commuters who previously used the free spaces inappropriately as an interchange parking.

The main challenge for HUB France was to implement an anti-squat solution that would manage the transits of two user groups efficiently and without conflict, guaranteeing free open parking for customers and paid parking for commuters.Thanks to the LPR (License Plate Recognition) system, the lane cameras identify each vehicle's license plate, serving as a 100 per cent digital ticket. In real-time, the entry lane cameras communicate the entry time and license plate to the JMS management software, which associates it with one of the two user categories: paying subscribers (those who travel by tram) or free occasional users (those who do shopping).

Nicolas Estruch, Key Account Manager at HUB France, comments: "The camera technology ensures optimal rotation of spaces and impeccable distinction between occasional customers and tram subscribers, satisfying both categories. Supermarket customers are very happy with the two hours of free parking, and we are delighted to be able to satisfy them". ■

Interparking Polska

A Brand New Car Park in Granary Island

Interparking took part in a unique urban development known as Granaria Project, alongside Immobel and Multibud Investment. Located at the heart of Gdańsk, on the northern tip of Granary Island (Wyspa Spichrzów in Polish), the undertaking pays tribute to the rich heritage of the area, once one of the largest European ports and warehouses in the 14th century.

Blending modernity with historical elements, this comprehensive project includes 552 luxury apartments, 37 commercial units, and the flagship Cloud One Hotel Gdańsk. The development also features a public square and a pedestrian bridge connecting it to the city center, offering residents the benefits of city living in a peaceful enclave.

Recognized with the MIPIM Award 2020 for Best Urban Project, Granaria development is a fine example of sustainable, premium urban living, combining residential, service, and recreational functions in a visually attractive and user-friendly space. To meet the parking needs in this urban oasis, Interparking inaugurated in December 2024 its brand new two-level underground car park, offering almost 500 parking spaces, including dedicated areas for bicycles and spaces for people with disabilities.

© Interparking

This facility ensures suitable and eco-friendly parking options with 24/7 access, seven electric car charging stations powered by EloCity, and the possibility to book online for added convenience. The car park caters to all users, whether they are residents, workers in the area, tourists, or people enjoying a night out or a shopping spree.

The opening of this modern parking facility brings the total number of Interparking car parks in the city of Gdańsk to four, reinforcing its presence in one of the most dynamic towns of Poland. ■

Mobility Award

After-Work Parking in Düsseldorf Takes Second Place

At the Mobility Day.NRW the North Rhine-Westphalian Minister of Transport, Oliver Krischer, honoured innovative mobility projects. The 'Feierabend-Parken' (after-work parking) project from Düsseldorf, Germany made it onto the podium.

Connected Mobility Düsseldorf (CMD) took second place in the 2024 NRW Mobility Award, along with prize money of 10,000 euros. With its smart parking project, the municipal company has implemented an innovative and pragmatic solution for parking in the city by opening supermarket car parks to the public after closing time. In cooperation with Aldi Süd, Lidl and the technical partner Ampido from Cologne, around 190 additional parking spaces have been available at a total of eight supermarket locations since July 2024.

Dr Stephan Keller, Lord Mayor of the state capital Düsseldorf, said: "The fact that our project 'After-work parking in supermarket car parks' has been awarded a top spot in the 2024 North Rhine-Westphalia Mobility Prize recognises our ongoing efforts to improve the difficult parking situation in Düsseldorf in the long term."

© Connected Mobility Düsseldorf

At the award ceremony: (from left to right) Rolf Neumann (CMD), Katharina Metzker (City of Düsseldorf), and Dr David Rüdiger (CMD)

Five Projects in the Running

Five exciting projects were in the running for the coveted prize: in addition to 'after-work parking', a digital platform for large-volume and heavy goods transport, a citizens' bus, an e-bus depot and an innovative bridge construction concept. First place went to the "Bürgerbus Lüdinghausen-On-Demand" project, which takes individual requirements into account. Passengers can book the bus by phone, online or using an app, and can also choose the departure time and location themselves. The project received prize money of 15,000 euros for this. Third place, worth 5,000 euros, was awarded to the "Cologne-Porz e-bus depot". A charging infrastructure for e-buses, a substation and a power centre were developed here. ■

Interparking Nederland

Modernization of Charging Stations at Interparking Boulevard Completed

In collaboration with Blue Current, Interparking has taken an important step in modernising the charging facilities for electric vehicles at Interparking Boulevard in Scheveningen, Netherlands. Thanks to the successful migration of the EVBox charging stations to the innovative Blue Current platform, visitors can count on an even better charging experience.

More Convenience

The collaboration offers several advantages. Visitors benefit from fast and professional support from Blue Current's easily accessible customer service for questions or technical problems. In addition, Blue Current develops innovative solutions such as battery charging, integration with solar energy and user-friendly payment options, such as paying via QR codes. For Interparking, this collaboration not only offers an improved experience for visitors with an electric vehicle, but also contributes to a more sustainable use of charging facilities and the reduction of grid congestion.

High-Quality Parking Facilities

"Interparking Boulevard is an important location. Thanks to the collaboration with Blue Current, we can offer our visitors a modern and reliable charging network," says Iwan Fernhout, real estate manager at Interparking Netherlands. Blue Current is also enthusiastic about the collaboration. "We are excited to work with Interparking to modernize the EV infrastructure," says Vince van Roekel, Senior Business Development Manager at Blue Current. "With our solutions, we want to contribute to a more sustainable and user-friendly network for electric driving." ■

© Interparking

Car park Museum Centrum in Groningen (symbolic photo)

HUB Parking

Innovative CESM Board Embedded in Parking Barriers

HUB Parking Technology, a brand of FAAC Technologies, introduces the CESM board upgrade for their parking barriers PRO and PRO-M, branded Magnetic – the brand for access control solutions within FAAC Technologies family. CESM stands for Control Electronics System on Module and it promises to enhance efficiency, reduce total cost of ownership (TCO), and ensure seamless traffic flow management in and out of parking lanes.

The CESM board is available as a lane-controlling kit for integration into the barrier models Magnetic Pro and Pro-M, eliminating the need for additional civil work to install a Lane Controller or additional parking lane peripherals. This integration allows the installation of a standalone barrier in narrow parking lanes, whether they are entry, exit, or section lanes (nested areas) within a parking facility with design constraints. This innovative solution is to simplify the installation process of the parking equipment onsite, which can be completed by the technical engineers' team during the pre-staging phase of the barriers, significantly reducing fieldwork.

Key Features and Benefits

As part of HUB's connected ecosystem of parking services, it is meant to deliver: Versatile Access Control, supports proximity cards, barcode tickets, AVI tags by UHF reader, and License Plate Recognition (LPR) camera readings, eliminates the need for stations and lane controllers, reducing space requirements and storage conditions.

The CESM-fitted barrier is intended as a solution for customers who prioritize flexibility, customization, and choice in their parking solutions, e.g. ticketless car parks, mixed-use complexes with multiple user groups and reservation-only lanes.

© HUB

Render of the CESM board solution

Sara Fiorini, Product Marketing Manager at HUB Parking Technology, says: "The CESM integration is one of those invisible, yet very powerful, new technologies that have a great impact on the user experience and the facility management". ■

CCV

IM30 Parking Terminals Accept Bancontact

A collaboration between CCV and Bancontact is making paying for parking more convenient and seamless. Bancontact, which is widely used and supported in the Belgian market, is now accepted at the CCV IM30 pay terminal. In doing so, CCV aims to modernise payment systems and offers a wide range of payment options that meet the needs of today's consumers, the company says.

The acceptance of Bancontact expands payment options for Belgian users who are already familiar and comfortable with this secure, local payment method. The integration with the IM30 unmanned terminals is designed to provide even more convenience, speed and security for both operators and customers.

© Bancontact

Increase Revenue

By offering seamless, secure transactions at parking facilities with one of Belgium's most popular payment method, parking operators can reach more customers and increase their revenue. At the same time, the trusted payment options offer the opportunity to improve customer satisfaction. For businesses, the update means a smoother and more efficient payment process.

This step is designed to improve the user experience in everyday transactions, pave the way for wider acceptance of cashless systems in public areas and further accelerate the transition to digital payments in unattended environments. ■

Quercus Technologies

New BirdWatch Functionality: Comprehensive Integration for Electric Vehicles

With the new functionality of the BirdWatch parking software Quercus addresses the changing needs of parking facility operators. The parking system not only connects to payment terminals, now it can also be integrated with electrical chargers, creating a fluid experience for electric vehicle users and improved management for the operator. With this new functionality, users can know how long the vehicle has been charging in real time, and how long it has been parked without charging (lead time), providing operators with a comprehensive, detailed view.

The BirdWatch EVC functionality makes it possible to know what is happening in each charging space, in detail, both in terms of parking as well as the use of the charger. According to the supplier, this facilitates efficient management and maximizes profitability, especially in facilities where major investments have been in fast-chargers.

© Quercus

Challenges with Ticketless Parking

Management of ticketless parking facilities brought out a common challenge. How can the machine know how many hours the vehicle has been charging, or if, on the other hand, it has been parked but not charging? Quercus' SC Indoor parking sensor can detect the vehicle and read its license plate. Then, the electric charger complies data on the charge. This information is transmitted through the API to the payment terminal. The inter-relation of data enables the creation of an accurate real-time record of the time that the car has been parked and charging, optimizing management and control of electric vehicle parking, and ensuring that charging spaces are used as efficiently as possible.

Another challenge faced by ticketless parking is the risk of users entering license numbers of other vehicles in the parking facility to gain access to charging. Although many chargers have their own app to manage charging, this solution depends on mobile network coverage, which is not always available in underground parking areas. But with the Quercus system this isn't necessary, says the company. Integrating the guidance sensors and automatic license plate recognition, this problem is averted, because the vehicle that is using the charging station is reliably authenticated. ■

SKIDATA

Power.Gate 'Plus' – Future of Parking Management

According to SKIDATA, Power.Gate 'Plus' introduces a flexible, user-friendly, and future-proof approach to parking management. By replacing physical buttons with a 15-inch touchscreen interface, it allows both operators and users to access a range of customizable options, ensuring a tailored and intuitive experience.

© SKIDATA

Power.Gate 'Plus' empowers visitors to select their entry preferences digitally: License Plate Recognition (LPR) for seamless access, ticket issuance for those who prefer traditional methods, plus options for reserved spaces, tailored for hotel guests or shoppers.

Example in Practice

A hotel guest arriving at a multi-tenant parking facility can select "Hotel Guest" on the digital interface and be guided to the appropriate parking zone with the corresponding tariff clearly displayed.

The system integrates multiple payment methods, including credit cards, apps, and contactless solutions. Visitors can choose to pay upon entry, during their visit, or at their convenience via mobile devices. Economic advantage for operators: Flexible payment options reduce bottlenecks at exits, increasing throughput and enhancing customer satisfaction, leading to repeat visits.

The machines also include a bi-directional video intercom with remote assistance capabilities. This ensures immediate support for users facing issues, such as payment difficulties or locating specific parking zones, further enriching their experience. The high-resolution touchscreen can also display advertisements, promotions, and important notifications. ■

Microlog's Parking Forecast for 2025

Which Trends Will Shape the Industry?

Norwegian company Microlog is a provider of industry-specific payment solutions. Their parking forecast for 2025 shows how parking is evolving rapidly, with 2025 set to bring smarter systems, greener infrastructure, and a complete rethinking of parking's role in urban life. Johan Norlander, Microlog's parking expert, shares his perspective on the trends driving this transformation, offering a roadmap for what's to come.

Cities Take Control of Parking

Cities are implementing proactive strategies to manage parking more effectively, including expanding paid zones and redistributing vehicles to off-street facilities. "These policies aren't just about regulating cars – they're about reclaiming urban space for people," says Norlander. "By moving cars off streets and into garages, cities can prioritize walkability, create more pleasant neighborhoods, and reduce traffic congestion."

This shift is part of a broader effort to integrate parking into urban planning goals. Paid parking zones encourage turnover, while off-street options reduce the visual and physical dominance of cars in city centers.

© Microlog

According to Microlog, the parking sector is helping to make cities smarter, greener and more livable.

The Rise of Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

Electric vehicle (EV) adoption is reshaping parking facilities. In his parking forecast for 2025, Norlander predicts that up to 40 per cent of spaces in some locations will require EV chargers. "The rise of EVs means parking facilities can no longer just be places to leave your car – they must actively support the transition to clean transportation," he explains.

This involves more than just installing chargers. Facilities need to accommodate drivers with different charging needs, from quick top-ups to longer sessions, while integrating seamlessly with EV payment systems and sustainability goals.

Smarter Parking through AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) is set to revolutionize the parking experience, eliminating much of the friction drivers have traditionally faced. Technologies like barrier-free parking and automatic license plate recognition make parking faster, easier, and more intuitive. But AI's impact goes beyond entry and exit processes. "AI systems can optimize space allocation in real time," says Norlander. "This reduces the time drivers spend circling for a spot, saving fuel and lowering emissions."

AI achieves this through real-time data collection from sensors, cameras, and mobile apps, ensuring parking spaces are used more efficiently. Machine learning algorithms predict parking demand patterns, allowing facility managers to implement dynamic pricing. For example, prices may increase during peak hours to balance demand and revenue. "These capabilities make parking smarter not just for users but also for operators," adds Norlander. "Facilities can maximize revenue while minimizing operational waste."

AI also enhances operational efficiency by predicting when equipment, such as ticket dispensers or payment terminals, will need maintenance. "With AI-driven monitoring, issues can be addressed proactively, reducing downtime and repair costs," says Norlander. Furthermore, features like energy optimization – dimming lights or adjusting ventilation when areas are empty – contribute to significant cost savings and sustainability.

The Influence of the 15-Minute city

The 15-minute city concept, where residents can access essential services within a short walk or bike ride, is reshaping urban planning –and parking. "Parking in a 15-minute city isn't about sprawling lots; it's about creating small, strategically placed facilities that support local accessibility," Norlander explains.

By integrating parking into pedestrian-friendly spaces, cities can reduce car dependency while maintaining convenience for drivers. "Looking at the parking forecast

for 2025, a common goal is to make parking part of a broader vision for vibrant, livable neighborhoods," he adds.

Flexibility and Choice in the Open Market Model

The open market model is redefining parking by fostering competition among providers. "This model gives drivers more flexibility and choice," says Norlander. "Instead of being locked into one system, users can pick the app or payment method that works best for them."

For cities, this approach reduces costs by allowing private providers to handle innovation and infrastructure. "It's a system that benefits everyone – users get better service, and municipalities can focus on broader urban goals," Norlander notes.

Sustainability Takes Center Stage

Sustainability is now a key focus for parking design. Facilities are incorporating features like solar panels, rainwater management systems, and energy-efficient lighting. "One example is when France's senate in November of 2022 passed a law mandating that owners of nearly all large parking lots install solar panels. By 2028, at least 50% of the parking lot surface area must be covered, or owners will face significant monthly fines. Laws like these prove that parking lots are becoming more than just functional spaces – they have to contributors to urban sustainability," Norlander emphasizes.

For example, solar panels provide shade while generating renewable energy, and better drainage to manage stormwater runoff reduce stress on sewer systems as well as protect against flooding. "These upgrades aren't just environmentally responsible; they also make parking facilities more resilient, future-ready, and multifunctional, contributing to better urban spaces," he adds.

As vehicles become more advanced, parking facilities are adapting. Many premium locations are already testing spaces designed for self-driving capabilities. "We're preparing for a future where cars not only park themselves, but drive themselves," says Norlander. "While it's still early days, testing these features ensure parking facilities stay relevant as technology evolves." These developments signal a shift toward a future where parking facilities accommodate both current needs and emerging innovations.

Looking Ahead

The parking industry is undergoing a profound transformation, with 2025 poised to be a pivotal year. "The future of parking is about more than convenience," says Norlander. "It's about integrating parking into the urban fabric to create smarter, greener, and more livable cities, where revenue can be maximized and operational waste minimized." ■

OPG Commissions PV System

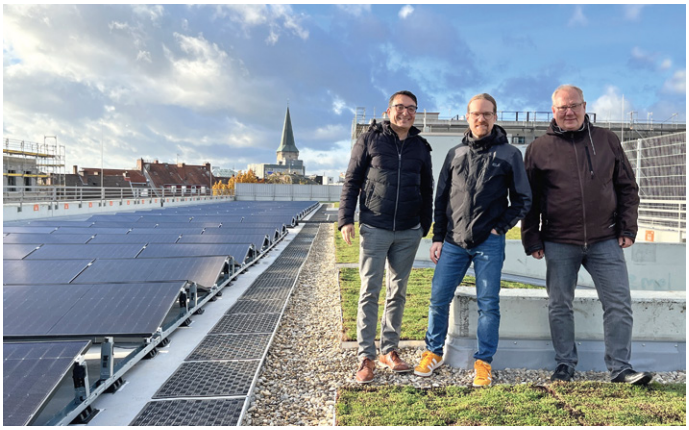
Solar Power from the Car Park Roof

Osnabrücker Parkstätten-Betriebsgesellschaft mbH, or OPG for short, is making its car parks more energy self-sufficient: at the end of November 2024, a 100 kW photovoltaic system went into operation on the roof of the Kollegienwall car park in the centre of Osnabrück.

According to the operator, OPG is able to cover more than 80 per cent of the car park's electricity needs with the solar power it generates itself. "For OPG, the commissioning of this system is an important sustainability milestone," said OPG Supervisory Board Chairman Volkmar Seliger. The Kollegienwall car park requires more than 100,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year for its operation – including the electricity provided at the e-charging stations. The new PV system is expected to generate around 85,000 kilowatt hours of solar power per year. To this end, a good half of the upper parking level of the Kollegienwall car park was equipped with a total of 226 PV modules. According to OPG, the calculated CO_2 saving is around 40 tonnes per year.

Further Car Park PV System Planned

According to OPG, the company has invested almost 160,000 euros in the installation of the PV roof system. "In view of the general developments in energy prices and the advantages of self-sufficiency, this is money well spent," says OPG Managing Director Volker Hänsler. The Kollegienwall car park is therefore not to remain the only OPG car park with PV use. The installation of a further photovoltaic system on the roof of the station car park is already being planned, announced OPG Managing Director Wigand Maethner. ■



© OPG

Delighted with the solar power from the roof in Osnabrück: (from left to right) Wigand Maethner (OPG Managing Director), Volkmar Seliger (OPG Supervisory Board Chairman) and Volker Hänsler (OPG Managing Director)

Fleximodo

Digitizing Parking in Malta's Historic City Centre

Maintaining historical charm while also enabling modern efficiency – this is the challenge that Fleximodo in Zurrieq, one of the oldest cities in Malta, is trying to meet in the face of a well-known problem: traffic congestion and parking difficulties in the historic centre. Together with the local company Domotica Systems, a solution has been developed that fits seamlessly into the city's unique environment.

© Fleximodo

Fleximodo guidance signage with flip-dot displays, that use power only when changing the display status

Four compact wireless guidance signages were installed, each equipped with integrated solar panels. With a simple plug-and-play set-up, they are designed to be as user-friendly as possible. State-of-the-art "flip-dot" displays provide live information on the traffic levels for three main roads. These signs help drivers to make smarter decisions, thereby reducing search traffic. This goes a long way to easing congestion in the heart of Zurrieq.

Tracking 122 Parking Spots

To make sure everything runs smoothly, the partner companies have installed 122 IoT (Internet of Things) parking sensors that monitor the availability of parking spaces throughout the Old City. These sensors are easy to install, preserve the traditional Zurrieq pavements and blend into the historic environment. They have been tested for resistance to extreme weather conditions and are equipped with batteries that last up to 8 years, promises Fleximodo. ■

© Fleximodo

IoT Parking Sensors – Mini Exterior installed in collaboration with Domotica Systems.

Portier

Lappeenranta Invests in Remote Parking Guidance Signs

Portier HOST, a platform for parking guidance systems that is unique worldwide according to the provider, has been in use since 2015. It supports smart city initiatives because, thanks to open interfaces, it can connect different technologies, collect data from various sources and combine it into real-time guidance systems for people moving around cities. In addition, Portier HOST has an AI module that is able to predict the development of parking guidance systems – an essential function for optimising traffic flow.

Lappeenranta, a vibrant town in south-eastern Finland, has been progressively embracing smart city solutions to enhance urban living and sustainability. For this, the town has implemented Portier's innovative remote parking guidance systems aimed at improving mobility, reducing congestion, and promoting environmental responsibility.

Holistic Approach

Portier HOST uses digital technologies and real-time data on parking availability to efficiently guide residents and visitors through the city using dynamic signage, thus optimising traffic flow. By providing timely information, the city ensures smoother mobility for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians alike. In addition, Portier street network guidance system supports environmental goals by reducing unnecessary idling and travel time, thereby lowering vehicle emissions and promoting energy efficiency. ■

© Portier

Real-time data on parking availability in Lappeenranta, Finland

Monit Data / Biesieklette

Quicker and Easier Bicycle Check-in and -out

Bicycles are becoming increasingly important in our mobility mix, both for commuting and personal use. With the rising popularity of e-bikes, traveling longer distances has become much easier. However, all these bikes need a place to park – both at the owner's home and at their destination. The increasing number of bicycles parked on streets contributes to clutter in public spaces and encourages theft and vandalism. As a result, moving bicycles off the streets and into staffed parking facilities has become a key topic in urban parking policies.

Biesieklette, which claims to be the largest operator of staffed bicycle parking facilities in the Dutch province of South Holland, offers neighborhood parking facilities, bike lockers, and bike drums at public transport hubs and in residential areas. What makes Biesieklette unique is that it operates as a social foundation, employing individuals who face challenges entering the job market and supporting them on their path to regular employment.

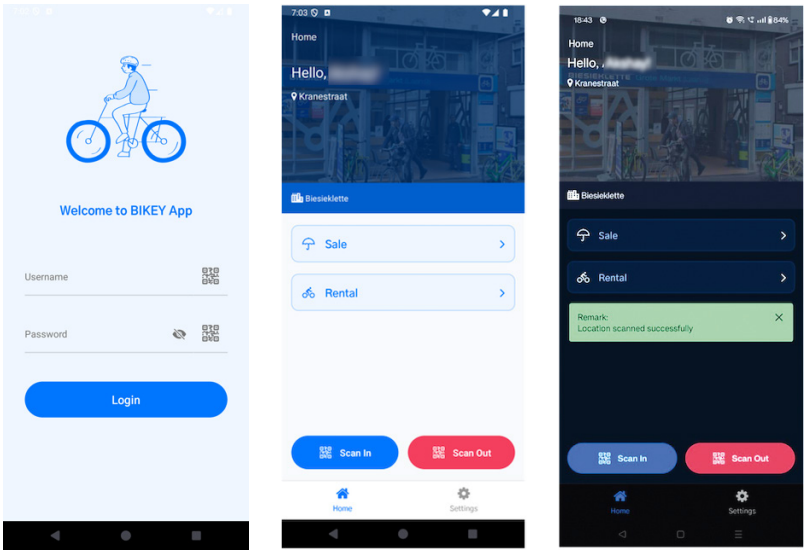
QR Code for Bike Parking

For subscription holders and visitors, accessing Biesieklette facilities works via a 'Bikey' QR code. This digital scanning process is faster, contact-less and more environmentally friendly than manually putting paper tags on a bicycle every time you want to park it.

The 'Bikey' product is part of Vtag, Monit Data's service for digital bicycle parking management. Vtag also serves as a point-of-sale (PoS) system for related services such as bike rentals and retail product sales. What's more, it is easy to manage subscriptions entirely digitally. All the data offers bike facility operators unparalleled insights. Peak check-in and check-out times, busy periods and subscription waiting lists are all clearly visible via simple dashboards. Vtag's cloud-based solution requires no local hardware.

Vincent Terlingen, HR officer and Planner at Biesieklette: "In a nutshell, Bikey is free, anonymous, reduces wait times, is safe, sustainable, and provides real-time statistics. Bikey is available at all Biesieklette bicycle parking facilities."

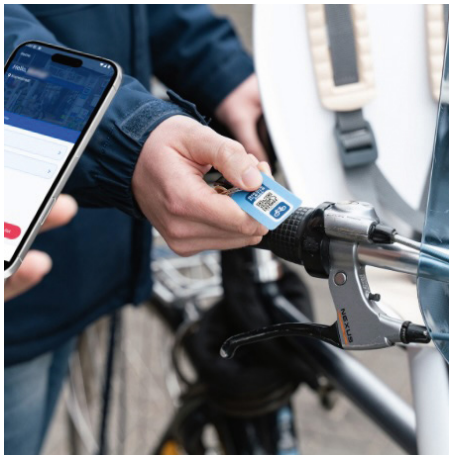
Screenshots of the Vtag app



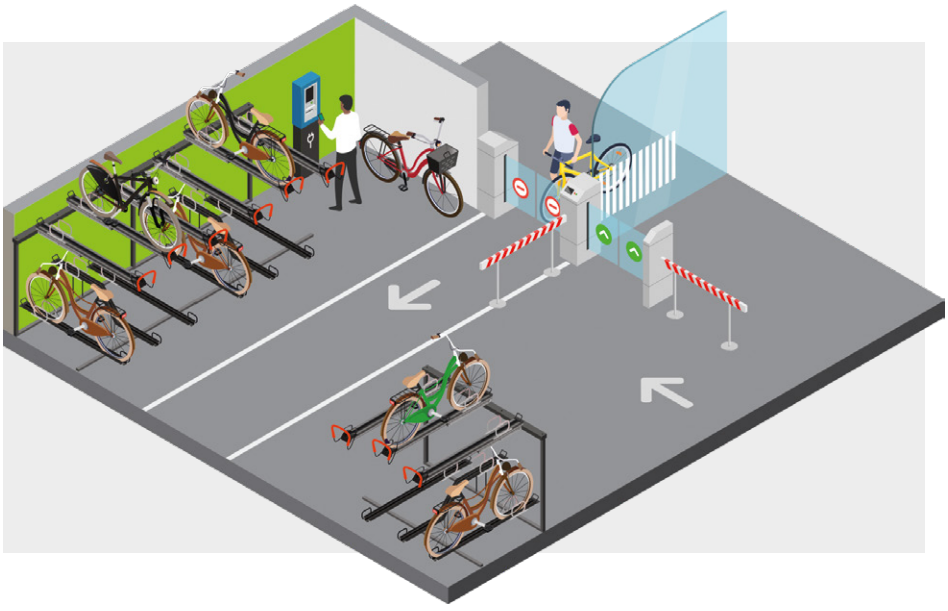
Vtag Upgraded

Recently, the Vtag service has been completely revamped. The smartphone app used by staff to scan 'Bikey' QR codes is now easier and more efficient to use. Also, the accompanying cloud-based server has been optimized, ensuring faster performance.

Ernst Bos, MD Monit Data: "By making scanning quicker and easier with the updated Vtag service, Monit Data is proud to contribute to Biesieklette's mission of supporting both cyclists and staff." ■



Person scanning a tag with a QR code to access Biesieklette facilities.



© FNMS

Parkopolis 2024

Complex System of Urban Mobility

Since 2021, Parkopolis has been represented at the 'Salon des Maires et des Collectivités Locales' (a trade fair for mayors and local authorities) to align the specific problems of the parking ecosystem with the needs of local authorities and to organise exchanges. With Parkopolis, the French parking association FNMS has set itself the goal of promoting and supporting the activities of its members in relation to parking and mobility in general.

Parkopolis the major French event for parking and urban mobility stakeholders, took place from 19 to 21 November 2024 in a dedicated space at the 'Salon des Maires et des Collectivités Locale' in Paris, Expo Porte de Versailles. Among the highlights of these three days of meetings was a series of conferences to shed light on all the transitions in parking. Parkopolis is also a trade show for parking-related technology and equipment on behalf of the FNMS.

A quintessence of the event was that, nowadays, parking cannot be considered in isolation. It is part of the complex system of urban mobility. So, the event united the entire mobility value chain including equipment manufacturers, vehicle builders, service providers, innovative companies, Public and private operators.

Conference

The three-day Parkopolis conference started on Tuesday morning with "Eco-neighborhoods, pooling, abundance and parking: effective urban planning and development tools" were discussed. Enlightening examples from cities were presented. Among the speakers was Ghislaine Geffroy from the City of Paris. In the afternoon "Local experiments in the management of public space and parking" were discussed with representatives of the companies Indigo and Flowbird and the cities of Bordeaux and Lyon.

On Wednesday morning "Plan the transformation of car parks and support local authorities in the decarbonisation of mobility" stood on the agenda with Jean-Laurent Dirx, President of SAGS and FNMS among the speakers, whereas in the afternoon the concept of "Delegated management: a challenge for the quality of public services and parking" was explained.

The final Parkopolis conference day, Thursday, dealt with the question of "Car parks and diversification of uses in the '15-minute city'". Amongst others, Sébastien Fraisse, Chairman of the Board of Indigo and Virginie Gauthier, Sales, marketing and communications manager of Metpark explored this theme.

Exhibition

Parkopolis is aimed at visitors to the Salon des Maires, decision-makers from the public and private sectors, concerned with parking. The exhibition offered a special area dedicated to parking stakeholders and their challenges in the heart of Pavilion 4 of the Parc des Expositions, located at the entrance to the Transport & Mobility sector. Renowned companies showed solutions for parking management, equipment, ticketing and payment solutions, car park renovation and repurposing, service hubs and mobility hubs, digital tools and MaaS.

© FNMS

Exhibitors included BRIAND Parking et Mobilités, EasyPark, Effia, Egis, Flowbird, Gagnepark, GEA, Hitachi, IEM, Indigo, Interparking, Macaron, Moovia, PayByPhone, Q-Park, Saemes, SAGS, Sareco, SKIDATA, Survision and TKH. ■

Calendar: International Parking Events in 2025

9 April, 2025
TREND Parkovacia Politika
co-organized by ParkDots
Radisson Blu Carlton
Bratislava, Slovakia

www.trendkonferencie.sk/events/parkovacia-politika-2025/

8 May, 2025
Seminar in Helsinki
Host: Finnish Parking Association
Contact: Juha Sirelius
juha.sirelius@aimopark.fi

https://pysakointiliitto.fi/

13–15 May, 2025
12th Conference of the CPA
Host: Czech Parking Association
Conference Hotel Luna
Kouty, Czechia

www.parkovaciasociace.cz

19–21 May, 2025
SVEPARK Annual Conference
Host: Svepark
Västerås, Sweden

www.svepark.se

19–21 May, 2025
16th ITS European Congress
Host: ERTICO
FIBES, Convention Centre
Seville, Spain

https://itseuropeancongress.com/

21–25 May, 2025
Parkex, BPA Event
Host: BPA
Coventry, UK
CBS Arena

www.britishparking.co.uk

8–11 June, 2025
IPMI Parking & Mobility Conference & Expo
Host: IPMI (International Parking & Mobility Institute)
Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

https://ipmi.parking-mobility.org/

25–26 June, 2025
Parken 2025
Trade Fair and Conference
Host: Bundesverband Parken e.V.
RMCC Wiesbaden, Germany

https://parken.mesago.com/wiesbaden/en.html

17–18 September, 2025
21st European Parking Conference & Exhibition
Brussels, Belgium

www.epaconference.eu

Imprint

Parking trend international
is published by
Maenken Kommunikation GmbH, Cologne/Germany, in cooperation with
European Parking Association aisbl
Rue d'Arlon 25, 1050 Brussels
www.europeanparking.eu

Publishing House
(responsible for editorial, advertising, production and circulation)
Maenken Kommunikation GmbH
Von-der-Wettern-Straße 25
51149 Cologne/Germany
www.maenken.com
Phone +49(0) 22 03/35 84-0
Fax +49(0) 22 03/35 84-185

Frequency: 4 x per year
Circulation: 4,100 copies
Unit price: see cover, plus forwarding expenses

Publisher
Dr. Wieland Mänken

Editorial Team
Marko Ruh
(Chief Editor)
Marlena Walberg
(Editor)
pti@maenken.com
Tom Antonissen
(EPA Executive Director)
Pauline Caublot
(Research & Projects Manager)
Yasmin Jefferies
(Membership Development & Social Media Manager)
Vasiliki Orfanaki
(Operations Manager)
epa@europeanparking.eu

Advertising Team
Wolfgang Locker
(Publication Manager)
Phone +49(0) 22 03/35 84-182
wolfgang.locker@maenken.com

Print Shop
Silber Druck oHG,
Lohfelden (Germany)

/ Enable a stress-free parking experience in city centres

Nowadays, city centre car parks face a wide range of challenges. Innovative solutions and comprehensive management are required to meet today's demands and overcome these challenges. With our efficient parking management solutions and smart product portfolio, you, as an operator or owner, can provide your customers a pleasant and stress-free parking experience.

Curious?
Scan the QR code with your smartphone,
to read our whitepaper 'Parking in Cities'
and learn more about our solutions.

www.scheidt-bachmann.com