Fact Sheet: EETS (European Electronic Toll Service)

What is the EETS (European Electronic Toll Service) all about?

The many changes to the German toll system announced for 2018 are frequently discussed in the media. One of the changes concerns the European Electronic Toll Service, or EETS.

But first of all, the changes to the German toll system involve the tolled infrastructure. From the middle of next year, toll must be paid for goods vehicles or combinations with a permissible total weight of more than 7.5t on all main roads. Regardless of the above, the EETS aims to give users access to the European tolled road network with just one contract and one on-board device (OBU) by one EETS provider.

The diversity and technical complexity of the European toll systems is regarded as a problem for the Europe-wide settlement of toll fees by a single provider. The existing solutions concerning the use of one OBU in several toll environments (interoperable toll solutions) indicate that this is technically feasible. The core problem lies elsewhere: appropriate legal and commercial conditions have to be put in place in order to, first of all, allow EETS providers to certify their technical solution quickly and, secondly, to give them security of investment through equitable remuneration.

Close to the goal with interoperable toll solutions

The recent creation of interoperable toll solutions constitutes one major step towards being able to offer one OBU for all European toll environments. UTA has taken on a leading role in this regard.

UTA has been providing customer-oriented electronic toll collection solutions for 10 years. Since 2007, UTA has used one solution for the main Western European toll systems in France, Spain, Portugal and the Liefkenshoektunnel in Belgium to turn the UTA portfolio of interoperable OBU solutions into one of the leading offers in the European market! In 2016 UTA introduced the first interoperable solution for the Italian toll system in partnership with Telepass. In addition to the complete Western European toll environment which includes Italy, Telepass EU now gives Eastern European customers in particular the opportunity to use the electronic toll system with an OBU on the A4 in Poland.

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1 Fourth law to the amendment of the Federal Trunk Road Toll Act of 27 March 2017, Federal Law Gazette year 2017 part I no. 15
3 Study: “EETS in Germany, advantages for business and government, fair allocation of incentives and risks as remuneration guideline”, Ernst & Young Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft GmbH, 2015
4 Guideline on the application of the directive on the interoperability of electronic toll systems in the European Union, Directorate General Mobility and Transport, European Commission, 2011
Also since 2016, UTA has been offering an interoperable solution for Scandinavia that includes Norway („Autopass“) with more than 50 toll collectors.

UTA is thus already able to offer its customers a portfolio of interoperable solutions that is close to meeting the future target.

Future development

UTA firmly believes that the demand for interoperable and cost-efficient OBU solutions will continue to rise with increasing international freight traffic and rising cost pressure in the transport and logistics industry in Europe. This development began around 10 years ago. UTA has thus been continuously working on developing the existing interoperable toll portfolio.

The project aims to support the introduction of further interoperability services by the end of 2017. The focus here is on the GO system in Austria and the new toll system in Slovenia, which is expected to be introduced at the end of this year.

The first quarter of 2018 will see the expansion of the existing OBU offerings to include a newly developed, technologically advanced OBU solution. We will thus be one big step closer to the goal of having a single OBU solution for all European toll environments.

The focus here will be on the technical solution itself as well as on customer convenience. UTA is aiming to take the user-friendliness of the systems to the next level. This particularly applies to the OBU ordering process and to company and vehicle registration. This is designed to reduce the administrative outlay for customers.

Summary

The interoperable toll solutions currently on the market make UTA one of the leading providers in Europe. As a result of this as well as continuous development, UTA is fully prepared to consolidate and develop its leading role in the field of interoperable toll and thus EETS solutions in the future.

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