

## Blackburn and Accrington Gateline displays

### Highlights

- Part of the £40m Penine Reach scheme
- 25 27" Gateline displays provided
- Multi-display information estate powered by EPI
- Double-sided totems designed to also house security CCTV and main station lighting

### Customer requirements

**Blackburn and Darwen council and Lancashire County council enlisted principal contractor Eric Wright Construction, to deliver new bus stations for Blackburn and Accrington as the cornerstone of the £40 million Penine Reach project.**

Blackburn's 90 metre long station was a uniquely designed structure, with architecture reminiscent of the cotton weaving looms so deeply embedded in Lancashire's industrial heritage, and contained 14 bus stands, each requiring a Gateline screen. Accrington had a further 11 stands, also requiring the same passenger information technology.

The new bus stations, funded by the Department for Transport, were part of a scheme to make it quicker and easier to travel by public transport to access work, leisure, shopping and education facilities, both from within and outside of Blackburn and Darwen; Accrington and Hyndburn.

The council required a variety of displays, in addition to the 25 gateline screens there were some of bespoke design that were built to house facilities that otherwise could not be mounted to the unique architecture, such as security CCTV and lighting

The council also required a Content Management System so the new gateline screens could provide more than travel information, including public service announcements and advertising to highlight the services and amenities that the new bus stations open up for them.

The station, whilst staffed for the duration of all departures, required a ticket vending machine to allow passengers to purchase tickets for travel.

### Solution and technology

21<sup>st</sup> Century Passenger Systems Ltd designed, manufactured and installed a variety of display hardware powered by their information estate driving software, EPI, to deliver real time departure information to passengers.

Each of the Blackburn station's 14 enclosed stands, and Accrington's 11 enclosed stands have a 27" Gateline display to give passengers up to the minute information on the services departing from their stand. The TFT displays are able to provide more information than their traditional LED counterparts, with the screens able to highlight via information in addition to the destination.



## Solution and technology continued

All the displays provided were designed and manufactured by 21<sup>st</sup> Century and are protected by SignMinder and watchman, reporting on the health of the displays and enabling the Passenger Systems specialist to ensure that the displays are always working to optimum performance.

In addition Blackburn station also has five double-sided totems of bespoke design. Finished in a corian material to complement the eye-catching architectural design of the structure, the totems do more than display the travel information required by passengers. Each of the units houses the main lighting for the bus station, and security CCTV cameras in order to keep passengers safe whilst they are making their journeys.

Accrington station will also be receiving three 70" and one 42" summary displays, highlighting departures from multiple stands.

21<sup>st</sup> Century also provided a double-sided ticket vending machine and journey planner to each station, providing local information to the public as well as being able to provide tickets for all the services available from the bus station. The displays are also enabled with a bespoke RNIB wayfinding system, to make the journey information accessible to all.

The data for each screen is controlled by EPI, the advanced information estate driving software developed by 21<sup>st</sup> Century's in-house software team. The software takes feeds from multiple sources and enables users to manage individual and multiple screens. The displays not only provide the latest travel information, but can also be used to deliver advertising and data on local events and hotspots. All the screens can be managed from RSLs online portal.

## Delivery

21<sup>st</sup> Century worked with a variety of stakeholders in order to deliver the solution on time. The project was managed by Capita on behalf of Blackburn and Darwen council and principal contractors Eric Wright Construction after the project was removed from the original contractors. 21<sup>st</sup> Century had to work with and around a multitude of other specialist contractors also, typically security and M&E.

