WORLDSENSING IN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST PARKING PROJECT FOR THE LA METRO

COUNTRY:

United States of America

PROJECT TYPE:

Metro

SECTOR:

Smart Parking

MAIN PRODUCT:

Fastprk | Parking Management system

fastprk

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Challenge

In January 2018, the Los Angeles Times published an article about how the ridership of the LA Metro fell to the lowest level in more than a decade in 2017. According to the LA Times, nearly two-thirds of former Metro riders told the agency that they stopped riding because transit service was inefficient, inconvenient or difficult to reach. LA's traffic congestion is also among the worst in the word. According to another article also from the same publication, LA's traffic congestion is one of the worst in the world. Recent studies also mentioned that 80% percent of the Metro's park-and-ride patrons regularly spent way too much time looking for a parking space and 30% of the spaces in Metro lots were occupied by non-transit customers, depriving Metro customers of a place to park. The LA Metro needed to provide additional parking spaces without overspending taxpayer's dollars in order to recover from the declining ridership. Additionally, while testing different parking management solutions, the LA Metro came across the challenge of having to collect real-time data in an environment with high levels of magnetic noise caused by the proximity of the parking area to the trains.

Solution

To help the LA Metro gain control over their available parking spaces and gather accurate, real-time parking occupation and turnover data, Parking Sense developed their own indoor parking sensor and partnered with Worldsensing for the outdoor deployment of 20.000 sensors. Worldsensing's parking management system, Fastprk, uses a combination of magnetic and magnetic+infrared sensors to detect the status of each parking space to send all occupancy information to a central management unit. The dual-detection sensors which combine magnetic and infrared technology have been proven to reach parking accuracy levels of more than 95%. The long-range sensors can be deployed without repeaters for up to 500 meters, making them ideal for outdoor parking deployments. With the sensing technology being integrated in an advanced mobility software solution, cities and operators can connect a variety of parking systems and services to obtain end-to-end solutions such as space occupation optimization. Fastprk is also among the pioneers on the use of deep learning algorithms for parking predictions.

The LA Metro is working with Parking Sense, a leading parking provider in the United States and official partner of Worldsensing, to help reduce traffic in one of the most congested cities in the world. Thanks to smart parking technology, the partners are able to provide more convenient indoor and outdoor parking options in order to encourage commuters to park their car and use the metro.

ADVANTAGES

- Reduction of time spent finding a parking space
- Increased public transport ridership equivalent to increase revenues
- Less private car usage, reduced traffic and CO_2 emissions
- Different types of outdoor sensors deployed according to the location requirements which achieved more than 95% accuracy in spite of the magnetic noise

"Seriously, had I not seen it with my own eyes in LA, I would not have believed how good your product works, 97-98% accuracy and hitting sensors from the gateway over 300 meters away, very impressive."

Larry Eade, Vice President Operations of Parking Sense

On top of that, the dual-detection sensors feature a double-encapsulation design which can endure harsh weather conditions such as the heat of the LA sun and are easier and less costly to maintain than comparable products.

Benefits

The progress of a city may be directly attributed to the efficiency and eco-friendliness of its public transport systems. When people don't need to drive their own car to go from point A to point B because they can conveniently take the metro to any point in the city, there is a multitude of benefits, not only for the commuter but also for the city. An LA commuter who can immediately and conveniently find parking is another happy customer of the Metro who can arrive to his destination earlier and much more relaxed. More efficient parking management systems will not single-handedly solve the traffic congestion problem overnight but the reduction on the time used to find parking can pave the way to minimize traffic and emissions and contribute to the faster transport of goods and services. The recovery on the ridership on the metro can also contribute to increased revenues which can help shorten the return of investment for the taxpayers in the city.

The new Fastprk dual-detection sensors which combine magnetic and infrared technology with a double-encapsulation design.

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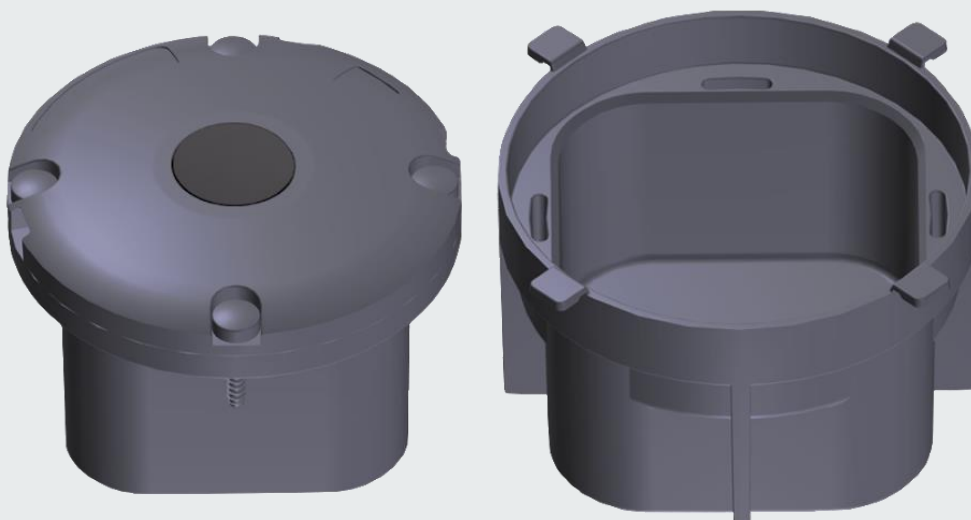
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