



Editors note: Teletrac Inc. and Navman Wireless are now merged as a global telematics powerhouse. This content was created prior to the unification of both brands.

How Tomazos Transport gained from fleet management software

Tomazos Transport is an Australian owned and operated transport company, initially established to provide vehicles and building material transport capabilities to parent company Tomazos Group, a construction company operating since the 1970s.

Since its launch in 2011, Tomazos Transport has widened its customer base and increased its original fleet. It now has close to twenty Kenworth, Mac, Volvo, UD and Western Star vehicles including double, triple and quad tipping road trains and body trucks. The company has plans to further expand to a larger, more diverse fleet.

In September 2012, Tomazos Transport installed a Navman Wireless In Vehicle Monitoring System, in order to keep in touch with drivers in remote areas and more effectively manage its growing fleet. The system enables vehicle tracking as well as two-way communication between drivers and the company's home base.

Beyond vehicle tracking

Transport & Logistics Operations Manager, Keith Joy, who coordinated the deployment of the Navman Wireless system, said the installation had immediate benefits beyond simple vehicle tracking. "We were able to not only track speeds, routes and positioning of all vehicles in the fleet, but keep in constant communication with our

drivers. A lot of the sites to which our vehicles travel are remote, so the Navman Wireless satellite system allowed us to keep in touch without having to rely on limited mobile phone coverage or two-way radio systems," Keith said.

"Since the installation of the GPS tracking system, we have utilised its programmes to cut costs, increase fleet efficiency, prolong the life of vehicle parts, promote good driver behaviour, and track OHS and fatigue management," he said.

The system offers insights to informing decisions that have improved the day-to-day running of the business, often putting the company in front of the competitors, in the areas of:

- Health and safety
- Fuel and tyre efficiency
- Event management
- Driver management and communication
- Fatigue management
- Government fuel rebates
- Maintenance monitoring

Continual improvement and considerable cost savings

In addition to its original use of vehicle tracking, Tomazos Transport has been able to track the diagnostic and behavioural patterns of drivers through the use of reports, logs, alerts and maps. Using the Navman Wireless system, Keith was able to conduct a Time in Motion study looking at the speed and fuel usage of each vehicle. Results showed running vehicles at 90kph rather than at the speed limit of 100kph would save the company an average of 10 per cent of fuel costs, an annual saving of close to 150,000 litres of fuel per financial year.

In addition to saving money on fuel costs, through the reduced speed of fleet vehicles, Tomazos Transport was also able to prolong the life

of the fleet's brakes and tyres. Previously brakes and wheel bearings were changed every 12 months, but subsequently only needed to be changed every 18 months.

But the cost savings did not stop there. Tomazos informed the company's insurance provider who was able to view the driver management records as well as monitor the vehicles' servicing and maintenance records. After a thorough audit process, the insurance provider re-evaluated the standard coverage and reduced insurance premiums by 52 per cent.

"The insurance company was impressed that we had all the integrated monitoring in one package – everything from when the tyres were changed, acceleration levels, how hard the brakes are used, regular servicing records, vehicle speeds, and the shift times drivers are working.

Once they had ascertained that our drivers and our vehicles were one of the safest fleets on the road, they happily gave us a credit and reduced our annual insurance premiums," said Keith.

IQA's 2015 Continuous Improvement Award Winner

In addition to the cost savings and business benefits afforded to Tomazos Transport by the Navman Wireless system, the solution deployment has earned the company a top prize in the Institute of Quarrying Australia's 2015 Caterpillar Continuous Improvement Award. The annual award recognises the improvement and evolution of an Australian business through structured and measured continuous improvements and is judged on originality and innovation, consultation, transferability, measured outcomes, impact or influence, and cost effectiveness.

Future improvements

In the near future, Tomazos Transport is looking to install additional Navman Wireless solutions, namely Qtanium Connect, into its fleet of 18 quarry vehicles including dozers, excavators and dump trucks. It also plans to roll out electronic pre-start using the GPS interface, eliminating manual checks and paper trails while covering off all aspects of pre and post inspections.

With driver safety constantly top of mind, Tomazos Transport also plans to install an event triggered dash cam which integrates into the into the Navman Wireless system. The cameras will only be triggered by events such as sudden braking, roll over, harsh acceleration, or manually via the driver. Incident alerts are sent to the administrator. Another safety solution currently being considered by Tomazos Transport is a "driver out of the vehicle alert." If a driver gets out of their vehicle while it is running the connection between the Navman Wireless system is broken and an alert will be triggered. The event will be displayed to the driver of any vehicle within a 50 metre radius notifying the hazard, while the driver out of the vehicle will also get mobile phone alert to notify when any other vehicles are approaching.

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