

ITS Deployment and Implementation Tracker

NPP Bundle: Public Transportation Operations
User Service: Public Transportation Management
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Tracker: Deployment and Implementation
Organization: Fairchild Space & Defense
Location: **Country:** United States **State:** Oregon **City:** Portland
Project Name: Portland
Benefits: Qualitative
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Description:

OREGON BUS RIDERS BLAST INTO ORBIT; SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY TO HELP KEEP PORTLAND BUSES ON SCHEDULE

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GERMANTOWN Md. June 22 /PRNewswire/ -- Fairchild Space & Defense Corporation (Fairchild) announced today that it was awarded a first of its kind \$5 million contract by the public transit agency serving Portland Oregon to equip 740 buses and paratransit vehicles with sophisticated satellite tracking devices. The transit agency known officially as the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (Tri-Met) is widely recognized and respected as one of the nation's premier public transportation organizations. Each bus will have a Fairchild system that automatically pinpoints its location via navigation beacons from two dozen satellites orbiting 10 000 miles above the earth. The bus locations -- determined to within 30 feet -- are sent over the buses' existing radio to a control center. Fairchild computer equipment and software then display the bus locations on an electronic map and help keep the buses on schedule. Eventually Tri-Met plans to make real time schedule information available to the public. In essence the Fairchild technology consists of electronic upgrades to buses and vans so that they become "Intelligent Vehicles" capable of locating themselves and alerting supervisors of their location. The Intelligent Vehicles are also able to send and receive digital messages based on their location. For example a bus can be automatically instructed to wait a bit longer at a transfer point for a connecting bus that is running late. "We are very excited to be selected as the first company ever to convert a traditional Motorola bus radio system into a futuristic satellite tracking System" said Fairchild's Vice President Phil Winkelman. "We are proud to join Portland's transit authority in pioneering the intelligent vehicle highway system frontier." /CONTACT: Len Senglin of Fairchild Space & Defense Corporation 301-428-6023/ 07:30 EDT

