

CAMERA ACTION

In order to maximize accuracy and operate effectively in the long term, modern tolling applications need integrated solutions that are cost-effective, flexible and future-ready

➔ As the demands of the tolling industry continue to increase, so do the challenges for equipment providers. "Currently, specifications and requirements are very tight in terms of flexibility," explains Corrado Franchi, CEO of Tattile. "Tolling authorities want systems that are complex, but that are also user-friendly and easily integrated. Furthermore, there is a huge demand for very reliable systems that can work in all kinds of weather, provide the highest possible accuracy (above 96%) and can be part of a larger platform, ensuring continued performance over the life of the contract, which is often more than 10 operating years.

With more than 20 years' experience in the traffic industry, Tattile is well equipped to provide ALPR solutions that meet the needs of modern tolling applications. The company's camera portfolio has been engineered to optimize traditional stop-and-go tolling and multilane free-flow tolling operations, and its mobile ANPR system can also be used as a tolling enforcement instrument, when installed in a patrol car.

"As a company, our aim is to provide a solution for every ALPR tolling requirement," says Franchi. "This means that the user, the installer or the system integrator only has to approach a single supplier to find solutions for a variety of



scenarios. This makes integration easy and interoperability a reality, and assures direct support. It is mandatory to be able to provide revamped or newer systems that maintain the same communications protocol or interface so that they can be immediately integrated and used effortlessly. This is the key to providing a system that can operate for more than 10 years, considering how quickly components become obsolete."

FIT FOR PURPOSE

As every tolling project requires a tailor-made solution, Tattile approaches each application individually. The company's solution for stop-and-go tolling comprises technology that is able to read license plates

Tattile's mobile ANPR solution (above) can be installed on patrol vehicles (left) and is ideal for night-time enforcement (right)



(Above) Tattile's Vega system is specifically developed for free-flow applications

at short range and then process the image on board the unit, in real time. It is also designed to have a small physical footprint and to be as non-invasive as possible.

Free-flow applications enable the company to exploit its R&D capabilities, with an all-in-one device that can detect license plates at high speed, without the need for a trigger, making installation very easy and cost effective. The standalone system is simply installed on a gantry and the camera core manages the process autonomously.

Tattile's mobile camera, meanwhile, is an effective solution for tolling enforcement applications. The device is easily installed into a patrol car and as the vehicle drives around, the technology scans all license plates in sight, identifying who has not paid the toll. This enables the authority to stop the evader and claim back the bill in real time.

"It is an active instrument in the fight against criminal behavior," says Franchi. "We believe that a mobile enforcement solution is a must for tolling authorities."

EUROPEAN TOLLING UNION

Tattile is currently directly involved in the European Electronic Toll Service (EETS), an initiative that will enable road users to pay tolls throughout the European Union with one subscription contract, one service provider and one onboard unit. "Our partners are installing cameras in both stop-and-go toll stations

and free-flow applications," says Franchi. "We have already provided more than 2,000 cameras, which will be the backbone of the future EETS system. Several others companies are also testing and embedding our cameras. Their advanced technology and high reliability makes our cameras attractive to tolling companies looking ahead to the future."

INTEGRATION AHEAD

As the tolling industry continues to evolve and grow, Franchi foresees technological challenges ahead. "I think that in the future we will be asked to provide complete solutions that have a lighter physical footprint than they do now," he says. "Free-flow tolling will become mandatory, especially in developing countries, and satellite tolling will become a commodity, assuring extremely accurate tracking and making sure that users only pay for the roads they use.

"As an industry, we must create solutions that have embedded functionality," Franchi concludes. "The 'side PC' must become history and the gantry should become an integral piece of road furniture." ❌

Corrado Franchi is Tattile's CEO. He is based at the company's headquarters in Italy

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