



((eTicket Germany is ready for the future

Public transport e-Ticketing in Germany started in the 1990s like in so many other nations. In those days, interested German public transport operators and authorities could not fall back on a nationwide standard for Electronic Fare Management (EFM). The result found about 35 different smartcard projects dotted all over Germany. Since then, there has been a dramatic change in passengers' behaviour and requirements. Customers want to buy their tickets quickly and simply and do not want to have to work their way through a complicated fare structure before they get the right ticket. So, in 2002, with funding from the German government, the Association of German Transport Companies (Verband Deutscher Verkehrsunternehmen (VDV)) started developing a standard for e-Ticketing in public transport.

From the beginning, the intention was to set a standard that could be integrated into other modes of transport (e.g. car-sharing or rent-a bike) and functions (e.g. access). This has proved to be the right move as, for example, young people who are no longer focused on owning their own car, now have the need and desire to use all types of transportation.

The first version was released in 2005 by VDV-Kernapplikations GmbH & Co. KG (or VDV-KA KG), the company founded to develop and distribute the brand name: ((eTicket Deutschland (or ((eTicket Germany).

Since then, VDV-KA KG has been further developed and this standard is fully operational today.

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Central services available

Since the VDV-KA KG standard became available, the VDV-Kernapplikations GmbH & Co. KG turned from a developing company into a service company and is now offering, besides the core application itself, the necessary central systems to ensure interoperability. To make sure every participant of ((eTicket Germany is able to communicate with other participants, VDV-KA KG has built a central exchange service (ZVM), which supports the standard communication processes. The blocking list service (KOSSES) generates and distributes blocking lists for all components of relevance to multiple