

The Star 
Business
Weekly

Sector Specialists

South Yorkshire's **leading business players** tell all



ADVERTISING FEATURE



Transport

In association with

SHEPHERD
DISTRIBUTION SERVICES


Technology to make a difference

WELL that's exactly what Sheffield based Shepherd Distribution Services are doing as they launch new Personal Data Assistant (PDA) devices across their national fleet.

In addition they have invested in a suite of advanced service modules to further compliment their already impressive advanced technology solutions.

So what difference does it make? It's how you use the data generated that makes the difference. These PDAs mean that every delivery on every one of Shepherd's national fleet can be made with a full digital signature as proof of delivery reducing paperwork and improving the experience for the end delivery point.

This signature is uploaded to Shepherd's online system and available for customers to view immediately, reducing the need to wait for a Proof of Delivery (POD) to come with the invoice.



Fleet: Shepherd Distribution Services are launching Personal Data Assistant devices on their vehicles

A digital POD automatically records the time and exact GPS location of the delivery signature. Gone are the days of queries on "was the pallet delivered?"

The GPS location of each vehicle is captured and used

to generate real-time visual mapping. This means that the Transport department has full visibility of its fleet.

The software maps each route and generates automatic status alerts and traffic congestion alerts. What does

this mean to our customers?

This means that customers can have confidence that Shepherds are monitoring the progress of each and every delivery throughout the day. Their teams of highly skilled and experienced

transport professionals have their fingers truly on the pulse of the business and can react to the everyday requirements of this very demanding sector.

What does this mean to Shepherds?

From Shepherds perspective the new PDAs and advanced services modules are a worthy investment.

It pushes Shepherds to the forefront in terms of the latest technology and allows the business to focus on delivering operational excellence.

Major benefits include on-line booking, online proof of delivery retrieval, real time delivery status, time-stamped delivery, full digital signature capture, real time visual mapping, automatic alerts, extensive M.I.S reporting and delivery status dashboards.

So who are Shepherds? Jack Shepherd established the company in 1946 as a full

load steel haulier. As local steel production fell in the 1980s the company moved towards a more flexible group offering. 1994 saw the business expand with the acquisition of the three-acre Birley Vale site in Sheffield. Shepherd Distribution Services became a shareholding member of the Palletline network in 1995, enabling the business to offer an even broader range of services to new and existing customers.

Today the business operates a groupage service to the steel and engineering sectors and is a shareholding member of the Palletline network enabling customers to transport palletised consignments across the UK and Europe cost-effectively and on time. It has a very large loyal and diverse customer base.

The company remains privately owned to this day and completes in excess of 140,000 deliveries per year.

SHEPHERD

DISTRIBUTION SERVICES

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Synonymous with Sheffield's Steel Industry....

Shepherds has nearly seven decades of expertise in delivering metal products nationally

