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Press release

Bouygues Telecom, the RATP and Transilien SNCF test a travel card integrated into a mobile phone

Bouygues Telecom is testing a travel card integrated into a mobile phone in a trial covering the entire Paris mass transit authority (RATP) and Transilien SNCF suburban transit network in the Paris region. This new and innovative use of contactless technology could come into widespread use in the near future.

Tests carried out by Bouygues Telecom and the RATP between July and October have already validated many technical aspects. Transilien SNCF has decided to join in the next phase of the trial, which will involve some 100 test customers over a three-month period. Using contactless mobile technology, this phase aims to test mobile phone travel cards in daily use in the transport network. The first practical application of contactless technology, the mobile phone travel card paves the way for the new mobile services of the future.

The mobile phone becomes a travel card

With 15,000 contactless readers and almost 2 million Navigo travel card holders, the Paris region transit system has the most extensive contactless infrastructure in Europe. This high equipment rate is a major advantage for rapid roll-out of the new contactless mobile service.

With the new service, customers will be able to:

- validate their fare each time they use their card. The technology works even if the mobile has been turned off or the battery is dead. To gain access to the transport system (metro, bus, RER suburban train, tramway, train), customers merely have to wave their mobile at a contactless reader, distinguished by a purple target sign;
- recharge a travel card via their mobile, when and where they want. A few clicks on the transit
 authority's mobile site is all it takes, giving customers greater flexibility and saving them a
 considerable amount of time;
- consult the cards or fares downloaded to their mobile.



The experiment is the fruit of a cooperative venture with Gemalto for the SIM cards, NEC for the mobile handsets and Inside Contactless for the Near Field Communication (NFC) contactless components.

Contactless technology, a new resource for greater mobility and freedom

The initiative is a new step forward in the development of services offered to mobile users. Bouygues Telecom is convinced that the combination of mobile phones and contactless technology can give public transport users a useful and practical service which has no equivalent at present.

Contactless mobile technology offers a wide range of possibilities in addition to transport, including electronic ticketing, reading intelligent posters and payment. Bouygues Telecom is planning to test such applications in the coming months before offering them to customers in order to make their daily lives easier.

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