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Sojitz Cororation

Sojitz Develops 'FOMA'-based Industrial Waste Tracking/Management System, with cooperation from NTT DoCoMo Kansai

Thorough Tracking of Location of Industrial Waste by means of Mobile Phone and GPS

(Japan, August30, 2004)--Sojitz Corporation, with the cooperation of NTT DoCoMo Kansai, Inc., has developed an industrial waste tracking/management system that utilizes the 'FOMA' third generation mobile phone. Through a linkage between 'FOMA' and the 'Venus System', a manifest management system serviced by Sojitz, the waste tracking/management system will unfailingly track industrial waste treatment processes, in addition to improving operation efficiency by computerizing complicated administrative operations for manifests. Utilization of mobile phone terminals will allow companies introducing the system to both reduce workloads and undertake waste management with a new method without having to purchase dedicated equipment. Operation of the system will commence in the Kanto Region with the introduction of the new system by a leading housing manufacturer. Sojitz will offer the service based on the ASP (Application Service Provider) method, focusing mainly on the construction industry such as housing manufacturers and general contractors that are strengthening their industrial waste treatment management systems. Annual sales of 100 million yen are targeted in three years time.

Conventionally, paper-based manifests have been issued at sites where delivery and receipt of construction material waste are made, with the presence of the person in charge from the business operator being responsible for the discharge of such waste. The new system makes use of a high-speed, large capacity network, which is a feature of 'FOMA', exchanging data over the Internet using i-mode, which data is required to issue a manifest. First, when picking up industrial waste, the industrial waste collector takes a photo of the site using a 'FOMA' mobile camera, the collector then connects to the i-application site dedicated to the 'Venus System' to enter required information such as type of waste and quantity. The system has a mechanism to automatically send the registered data to the business operator responsible for discharging the waste.

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The person authorized to issue a manifest, to whom a password has been given in advance, gives approval after confirming the images and data, and then issues an electronic manifest.

Further, the system uses GPS (Global Positioning System) to track the transport vehicle in real time. Navigation traces such as vehicle positioning and route are recorded as electronic data per manifest, enabling the creation of highly reliable manifests. Such electronic manifest information is shared over the Internet with those responsible for the discharge of waste, waste collection and transportation service providers, and waste treatment operators. The system enables not only improvements to the efficiency of clerical work, such as collecting and verifying manifests, but also eases the carrying out of the unified management of data concerning waste management. The 'Venus System' is in compliance with JWNET, operated by the Japan Industrial Waste Technology Center (Chuo-ku, Tokyo), and provides the benefit of being exempt from the 5-year storage requirement that exists for paper-based manifests.

Under circumstances where regulations are being strengthened in order to prevent illegal waste disposal, as can be understood from the revision of the Waste Disposal Law, companies are required to undertake more thorough industrial waste management and information management. In addition, resource recycling and the environment are receiving increased public attention. Through provision of the new service, Sojitz will support the efforts of waste discharging enterprises, and will also aspire to establish systems to prevent illegal waste disposal.

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