

**North Sea Freight  
Intelligent Transport  
Solutions (NS FRITS)**  
*aims to improve safety,  
security and efficiency for  
the road freight sector  
through the introduction  
of an Intelligent  
Transport System.*

European Union The European Regional Development Fund

**The Interreg IVB  
North Sea Region  
Programme**

*Investing in the future by working together  
for a sustainable and competitive region*



# Why is the freight industry so important?



*Transnational trade is a cornerstone of the European Union with nearly three quarters of all goods transported using road freight.*

Each day billions of Euros worth of goods are moved on the trans-European road network making roads an integral part of the supply chain. The transport sector employs approximately 8.8 million<sup>1</sup> people across the European Union, making it one of the biggest sources of employment.

Increased journey times, poor delivery predictability and freight crime all have a negative impact on communities and economies, causing significant financial losses to businesses. Every year €8.2 billion<sup>2</sup> worth of cargo and vehicles are stolen across Europe. Environmental damage is caused through the unnecessary increase in journey times and vehicle emissions.

The North Sea Region (NSR) is Europe's largest transport hub<sup>3</sup>. Its unique position for the shipment of goods across Europe places it at the heart of freight activity. Through improving NSR's global competitiveness, NS FRITS will support sustainable economic, social and environmental improvements. It will enhance the future growth opportunities for the road freight industry and the region as a whole.

## What impact is NS FRITS intending to make?

- » Improving accessibility for people living and working within the NSR
- » Increasing job opportunities
- » Reducing the impact of freight crime
- » Enhancing opportunities for global competitiveness in the NSR
- » Supporting opportunities for sustainable economic growth
- » Reducing environmental damage
- » Creating a positive socio-economic impact through the use of innovative technologies
- » Encouraging transnational and cross-sector collaboration through public and private partnership

<sup>1</sup> European Commission, Eurostat, Transport and Storage.

<sup>2</sup> EU Parliament report, the Transported Asset Protection Association (TAPA), 2007

<sup>3</sup> Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme 2007-2013, Operational Programme

# Introducing NS FRITS



*The aim of NS FRITS is to improve safety, security and efficiency for the road freight sector through the introduction of an Intelligent Transport System.*

The system will provide live information in a series of languages, to drivers and transport managers as they move freight across the NSR.

NS FRITS will enhance the accessibility of the NSR for the road freight sector by helping to improve traffic flow, reducing security threats to drivers and addressing logistical issues including congestion and freight volumes.

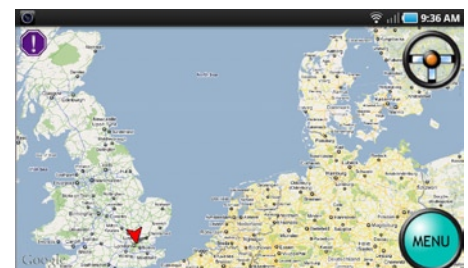
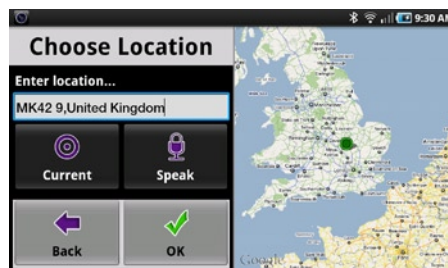
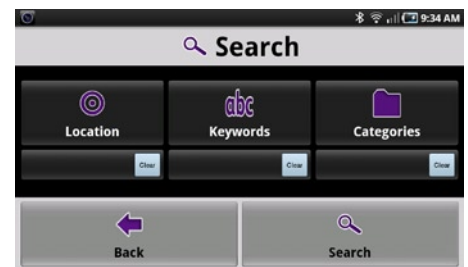
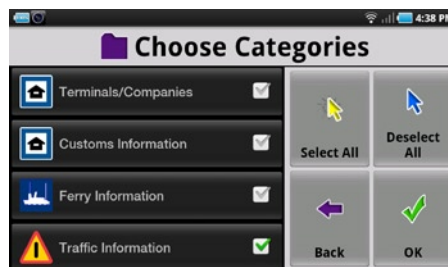
## **NS FRITS aims to:**

- » Provide drivers and transport managers with specific and relevant road information to support their journey, improving safety, security and efficiency
- » Improve the performance and profitability of transport and logistics providers working in the NSR
- » Support the NSR's ability to compete globally enhancing sustainable economic growth and competitiveness
- » Keep drivers safe by reducing freight crime and enhancing road safety and working conditions for drivers
- » Develop a multi-lingual communication system to improve opportunities for the NSR's road freight sector
- » Reduce carbon emissions by improving transport congestion traffic flow and by avoiding engine idling
- » Build a system that can meet the future needs of logistics operators and the growing challenges within the road freight industry throughout the NSR
- » Support and work in co-operation with other related European Union funded projects sharing good practice and experience



# How does NS FRITS work?

*NS FRITS uses leading-edge technology in an innovative way to send information to drivers and transport managers in a variety of languages.*



**NS FRITS** is a proof of concept project developed by a group of ten private and public sector organisations within the NSR.

Drivers will receive information via their android mobile phone or tablet whilst transport managers will access information from a desktop application. NS FRITS has the capacity to be transferred to almost any communication device reducing the need for companies having to repeatedly pay to upgrade equipment. The technology will be affordable for all companies and will be particularly useful for small and medium sized enterprises who may not have access to the latest information technology.

This project is the first of its kind; it combines information from sources never accessed before, such as police crime data, with existing information such as traffic alerts and HGV specific road conditions. The information will be available to users in text, graphical and map formats, using the latest and highly accessible, mobile, GPRS and satellite technology.

NS FRITS can also be accessed via screen media at dedicated truckstops. The screen media allows drivers who do not have access to an android phone or tablet to access the NS FRITS system.

## Examples of information available from NS FRITS include:

- » Secure parking locations
- » Crime hotspots
- » Lorry specific road conditions including weight restrictions and low bridges
- » Route planning including information on road incidents and traffic congestion
- » Foreign road traffic laws
- » Poor weather conditions
- » Border control requirements and documentation

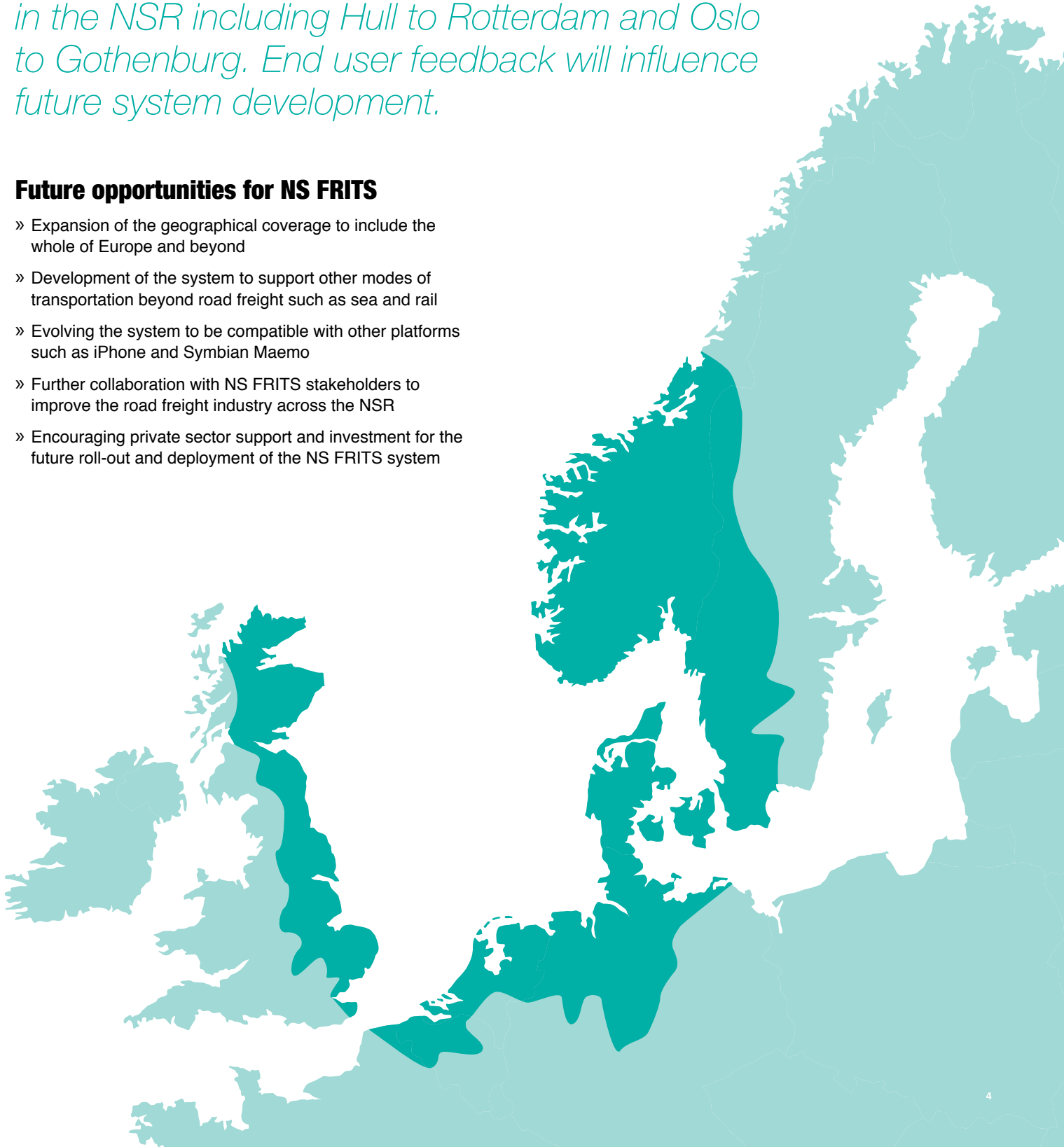
---

# NS FRITS activities and opportunities

*NS FRITS is being assessed and evaluated in live trials across a number of transnational routes in the NSR including Hull to Rotterdam and Oslo to Gothenburg. End user feedback will influence future system development.*

## **Future opportunities for NS FRITS**

- » Expansion of the geographical coverage to include the whole of Europe and beyond
- » Development of the system to support other modes of transportation beyond road freight such as sea and rail
- » Evolving the system to be compatible with other platforms such as iPhone and Symbian Maemo
- » Further collaboration with NS FRITS stakeholders to improve the road freight industry across the NSR
- » Encouraging private sector support and investment for the future roll-out and deployment of the NS FRITS system



# The NS FRITS partnership

*The project is supported by stakeholders from the road freight sector, telecommunications, government bodies, law enforcement agencies and port authorities.*

People | United  
Against | Crime



The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme is providing 50% of the €4.9m investment in the NS FRITS project. The remaining 50% is funded by a public and private sector partnership drawn from the UK, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden.

The NS FRITS partnership brings together representatives from high-tech communications, logistics, crime reduction, education and policing.





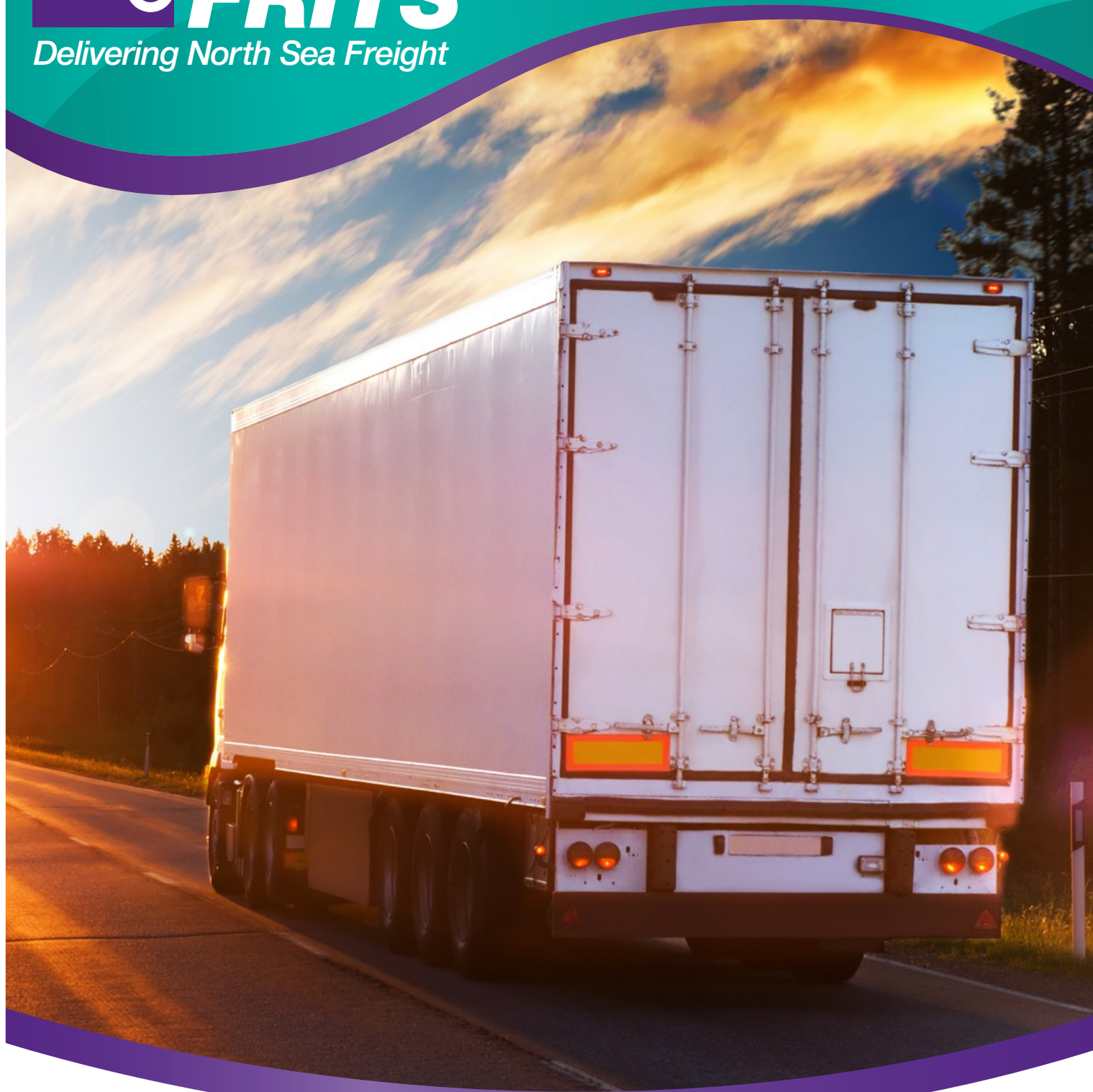
For more information  
about NS FRITS please visit

**[www.nsfrits.eu](http://www.nsfrits.eu)**

People United Against Crime  
4th Floor, Castle Market Buildings  
Exchange Street, Sheffield S1 2AH  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 114 275 8688  
Fax: +44 (0) 114 275 8637





Lead Partner:

**People United Against Crime**  
4th Floor, Castle Market Buildings  
Exchange Street  
Sheffield  
S1 2AH  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 114 275 8688  
Fax: +44 (0) 114 275 8637

**[www.nsfrits.eu](http://www.nsfrits.eu)**

European Regional Development Fund

**The Interreg IVB  
North Sea Region  
Programme**

Investing in the future by working together  
for a sustainable and competitive region

