

News: Industry

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Eclipse announces further investment



Eclipse Legal Systems has announced further investment in its Road Traffic Accident (RTA) claims solution.

Following The Ministry of Justice's (MOJ) well-publicised ruling, all RTA claims of a value less than

£10,000 must be processed through a central 'Portal'. Recent Government discussion suggests that this method will be rolled out to wider claimant injury work, encompassing areas such as low-value employer liability, public liability and medical negligence.

Case management software provider Eclipse was the first vendor to make integration with the portal available, via an Application-to-Application (A2A) method. Using A2A, claimant law firms with Eclipse's Proclaim Case Management solution can manage RTA claims entirely through the Proclaim desktop without resorting to the MoJ's slower, cumbersome 'web browser' method.

Ongoing investment into development of Proclaim A2A means that the solution encompasses both 'stage 1' (claim notification and the defendants' response) and 'stage 2' (the settlement phase) of the process.

"The claimant personal injury market will change dramatically as the Government is keen to improve access to justice and reduce associated costs," said Eclipse's founder and chief software architect Steve Ough (pictured above).

"We aim to provide the very best automation solutions, and this further investment in Proclaim A2A will enable our clients to provide optimum service levels within the proposed low-value framework."

RTA Portal directors appointed

Several leading experts from across the legal and insurance sectors have been appointed as directors with responsibility for the ongoing management and development of the new RTA Portal.

The RTA Portal is used by motor insurers/compensators and claimant legal representatives so that claims information can be exchanged in a secure way and also ensures that faster agreement on liability and settlement of claims is achieved as set out in the new RTA Low Value PI process.

The new directors are David Bott, Vice-President of APIL and managing partner of Bott & Company;

Graham Gibson, director of claims at Allianz; Richard Harris of Ageas; Tony Sherman, finance director of the Motor Insurers' Bureau; Motor Accident Solicitors Society (MASS) chairman John Spencer; solicitor John Usher; RBS Insurance project manager Martin Ward and Fraser Whitehead, senior litigation partner at Russell Jones and Walker.

"By virtue of the range of interests represented by the directors, the users of the RTA Portal can be satisfied that their ongoing needs are being met and, most importantly, so too are those individuals making claims in this category," said Tim Wallis, independent chairman of RTA Portal Co Ltd.

New look for Call Zebra



Collision management company Call Zebra has completed a top-to-bottom re-brand following a management buyout in July 2010.

Led by Managing Director, Darren Gilling, the company recently launched the first of its six £100,000 multimedia campaigns directly to drivers in the West Midlands area via local radio ads, taxi and bus advertising, as well as exclusive promotions in and around the Birmingham area.

The new approach is underpinned and supported by the strapline: 'Experienced. Efficient. Dedicated. Green' to reflect the company's unique blend of traditional values and a forward-thinking, environmentally responsible approach.

"The MBO has given the green light for Call Zebra to focus on its long-awaited entry into the consumer market sector," said Gilling.

"The last six months have also seen the business restructure, redevelop and expand its offering to include all areas of motor-related services. We now provide the consumer with a one-stop product for their automotive needs."

Established in April 2008, Call Zebra has always taken a unique approach to collision management, providing 24/7 solutions to its customers.

NEWS BRIEFS

The death of a young man who spent his last moments warning motorists about a live electricity cable has prompted the prosecution of a power company.

The HSE took action against Scottish Power after the man was killed in Shropshire in January 2007.

The company was fined £130,000 plus costs after pleading guilty to contravening the Electricity at Work Regulations Act 1989.

A vulnerable 92-year-old woman died after falling from a first floor window in a Worcestershire care home.

During the prosecution, the court heard that the window in the woman's bedroom could be opened fully despite published HSE guidance.

Heritage Manor Ltd, Kempsey was fined £16,500 and ordered to pay £25,000 towards costs.

An Oxfordshire printing firm was fined after a worker's hand was pulled into a machine, crushing his thumb.

He was clearing jammed booklets from a stacker machine at the Bicester printers when the machine started up and caught his left thumb between a feeder belt and a roller, crushing and cutting it badly.

BenhamGoodHeadPrint Ltd was fined £4,000 plus costs.