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Tracking System for Garbage Trucks Mooted

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Ibrahim Haj Hamad

DUBAI — A telemetric system has been proposed to keep a tab on the trucks transporting waste to prevent illegal dumping, the primary source of contamination of sewerages and beaches in the UAE.

ArabIT, a Dubai-based solution provider specialised in mobile assets, presented the Telargo Fleet Management System at the Middle East Waste Summit 2009 held in Dubai recently.

John Bergl, Director of ArabIT, told *Khaleej Times* on Tuesday that the system reports accurately on the work being done by the vehicles as well as their drivers round the clock.

Truck drivers working for the Waste Management Department of the Dubai Municipality are being paid by the number of trips they make.

Since they have to wait up to five-six hours after collecting the waste for discharging it at Al Aweer Sewage Treatment Plant, there's great temptation for them to dump it in remote areas, though it is illegal, said Bergl.

"Until now, fleet management (sections) have been unable to monitor accurately what their trucks and drivers are doing and when. In addition, customers, in this case municipalities, have been unable to monitor the con-

tractors," said Chris Wiener, general manager of ArabIT.

The tracking, or telemetric, system would provide an immediate alert if a vehicle makes an unauthorised stop or discharges the waste anywhere other than in the approved areas.

The system would also generate performance reports; allow route and time planning automated to take into account traffic flow and alert the management if a vehicle runs behind schedule; and enable the management to reschedule contractors to avoid congestion at dump sites, further reducing the risk of drivers dumping waste illegally.

"In essence, telemetry allows you to know what both vehicles and drivers are doing at all times, how fast they are driving, where they are working, where they are dumping, what they are dumping and what they are collecting," said Wiener.

Dubai in particular has been caught with the problem of illegal dumping. Sewage tankers were found to be flushing their tanks down inland stormwater drains, resulting in raw sewage contaminating beaches.

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