

NZTA STATEMENT ON EROAD eRUC TRIAL

In an interview with *Truck & Driver*, reported in the May 2009 Issue, NZTA Policy Manager, Delaney Myers, has stated that a commercial trial of EROAD's online RUC service is expected to begin shortly. The eRUC trial will allow EROAD to offer its innovative electronic Road User Charge (RUC) Management System to HV customers.

Designed and manufactured in New Zealand, the EROAD RUC Management System encompasses the world's first secure electronic hubodometer, the eHubo, and a bank grade web-based payment gateway, to purchase and manage RUC, and provide other value-added services.

CEO Steven Newman said that feedback the company was receiving from the industry on the EROAD product was very encouraging. Operators want to use the internet to help manage RUC, improve transparency and lower administration costs. EROAD's online RUC service is in-line with the rapid global move towards internet based commerce and electronic ticketing.

Moving to an eRUC model is a win-win for the industry and the government states Mr Newman. An eRUC system will improve productivity and compliance, and reduce evasion and enforcement costs. Mr Newman endorses the NZTA who have stated that they are "very interested in eRUC technology and think it's definitely the way forward, when we talk about charging for road use."

In a related development, EROAD has recently completed an extensive field trial involving 100 vehicles travelling a total of 1.6 million kms. The field trial demonstrated that the eHubo was significantly more accurate and reliable than the odometers and mechanical hubodometers fitted to the trial fleet. The company has submitted its eHubo to the Ministry of Transport for regulatory approval, and is confident it will be accepted as a cost effective and superior distance recorder, says Mr Newman.

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