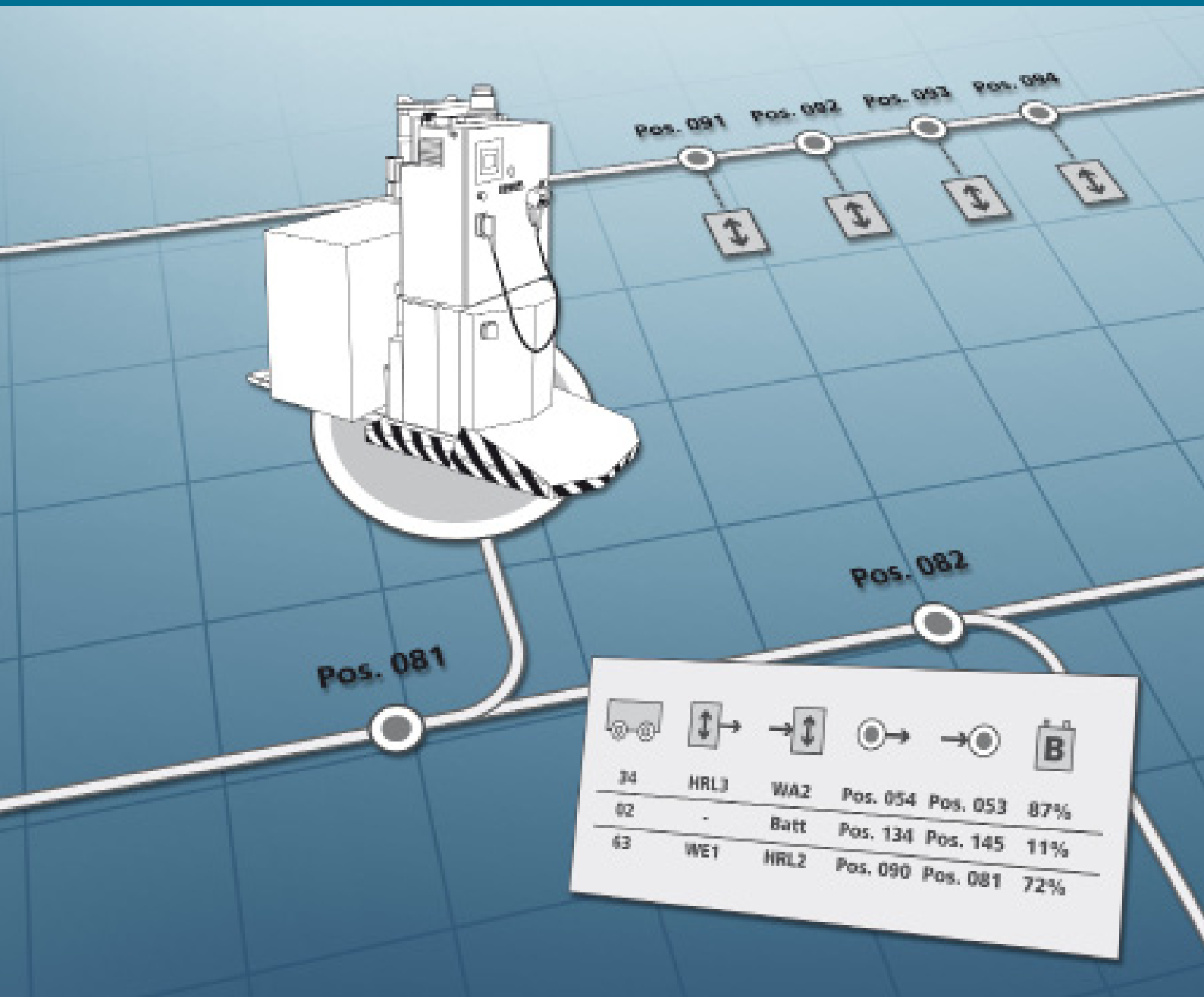
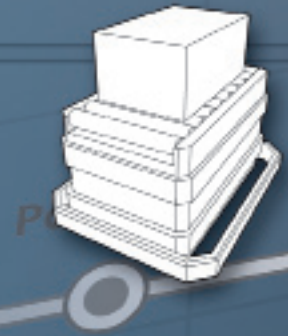


openTCS® THE OPEN CONTROL SYSTEM FOR AGVS



openTCS

Open Transportation Control System



THE OPEN CONTROL SYSTEM FOR AGVS

Automated Guided Vehicle Systems (AGVS) are floor-bound transportation systems preferably applied for in-plant material transport. They are used within and outside buildings and mainly consist of the vehicles and a control system for overall coordination.

Situation

Usually the operator of an Automated Guided Vehicle System receives a complete package from the supplier comprising vehicles and control system closely meshed with each other not or only to a limited extent allowing own changes. So the operator is, in the case of system extensions for example, dependent on the contribution of the supplier. This results in a considerable dependency of the operator on the supplier.

Manufacturer-neutral control system openTCS®

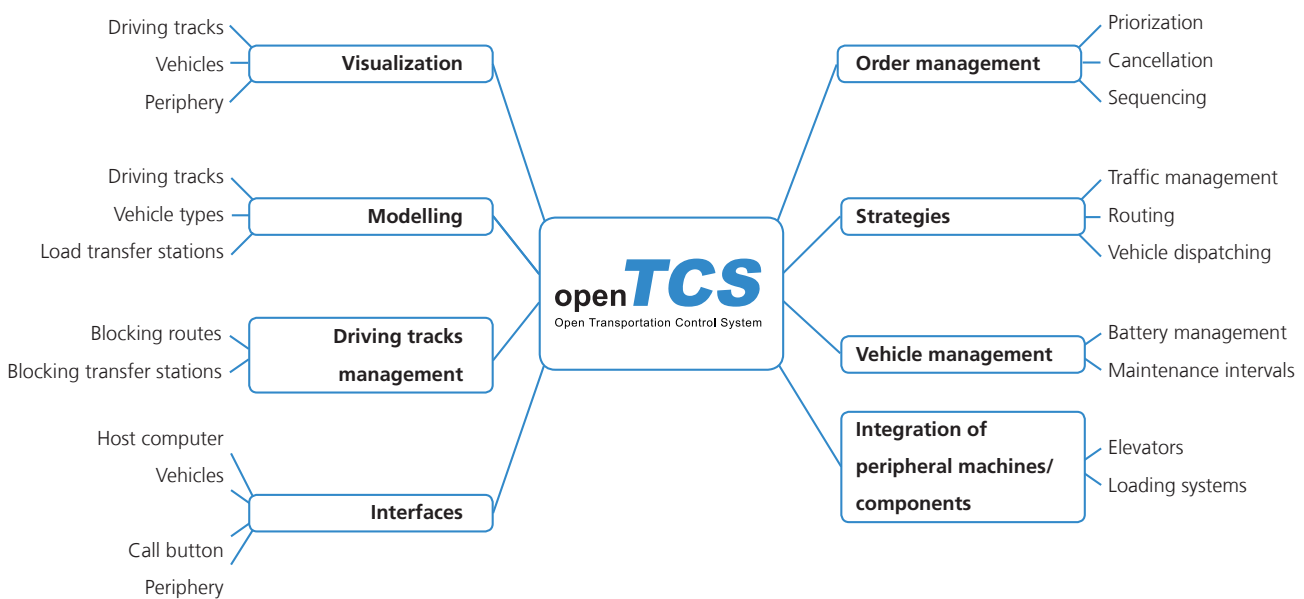
openTCS® is a control system software warranting independence. This software can be applied independently from certain vehicle manufacturers, vehicle types and characteristics. The field of application does not only cover AGVS, but all track guided discontinuous transport systems – this being expressed by the name openTCS® (open transportation control system). Controlling any type of vehicle merely requires a suitable vehicle software driver that either can easily be programmed by the plant operator himself or can be developed by one of the openTCS® partners. Any new vehicle driver can be added to the system by a simple plug-in concept and can immediately be used for controlling vehicles.

Advantages for the user

This makes the operator independent from the system supplier and provides investment security. Changes of the driving tracks, extensions of the vehicle fleet and adaptations of the strategies no longer require the obligatory support of the original supplier.

Advantages for the vehicle supplier

To realize transport systems suppliers of Automated Guided Vehicles also need a control system software taking over the overall coordination of multiple vehicles. They either have to develop the software by themselves – this being a considerable effort – or they have to buy the software from other manufacturers – this usually limiting the range for own modifications. openTCS® provides a sensible compromise between both variants. The development allows all project consortium partners to start from an existing broad code base – in the best case making it possible to realize a transportation system without any further (software) development. At the same time any kind of change is possible in any part of the open system, e.g. to meet special requests of customers.



Development

openTCS® was initially developed within the scope of the program InnoNet under the project title FAHRLOS publicly funded by the BMW and since then has been maintained by the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics (IML) and the Institute for Automation and Communication (ifak). openTCS® is completely implemented in the programming language Java and thus applicable on every operating system a Java Runtime Environment (at least version 1.6) exists for. Therefore the software can run on a Linux/Unix system as well as on a Windows or Mac-OS-X system. You will find further information at www.opentcs.org. You are also welcome to be demonstrated openTCS® in our openID center at Fraunhofer IML in Dortmund (Germany) or to request an evaluation version of the software.

At a glance

- openTCS® is the flexible control system software for AGVs and provides optimal coordination of the vehicles in a system.
- openTCS® is easily expandable and the plug-in concept of the vehicle drivers allows to control every type of guided transport vehicle, besides AGVs also non-continuous conveyors as electrical monorails and mobile assembling platforms.
- openTCS® strategies, e.g. for routing and vehicle dispatching, are replaceable. Suitable strategies for typical applications in intralogistics are already integrated as configurable modules.

Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics IML

Board of Directors:

Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Uwe Clausen

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Michael ten Hompel (Managing Director)

Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Axel Kuhn

Joseph-von-Fraunhofer-Str. 2-4

44227 Dortmund

Germany

Autonomous Transport Systems Department

Contact:

Dipl.-Inform. Stefan Walter

Phone +49 231 9743-246

Fax +49 231 9743-427

stefan.walter@iml.fraunhofer.de

www.opentcs.org

www.iml.fraunhofer.de



Pos. 080