

POSTAL NEWS

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1. Greening the Gov: Postal Service launches environmental website

The U.S. Postal Service launched an environmentally conscious website today at www.usps.com/green.

The new site offers consumers a chance to purchase eco-friendly shipping products, tips for recycling junk mail, links for removing your name from mailing lists, advice for marketers looking to cut down on mail, and facts about the Postal Service's efforts to limit its environmental footprint.

By far the most interesting feature of the site is an automated calculator that allows site visitors to determine the amount of gas they use each year getting to and from the post office. Users are prompted for the mileage per gallon their car gets, the number of times they drive to the post office in a month, and the distance to their post office. Based upon this information, the tool calculates the annual amount and cost of gasoline used for mailing.

In a sign of the growing awareness about the greenhouse effect, the calculator also predicts the annual amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by these trips to the post office.

The green postal portal aims to get customers to utilize the shipping tools of the USPS website. Nowadays, almost anything a customer can do in a Post Office can be done online.

The green website is one of many ongoing initiatives to turn the USPS into a green giant. Each year, USPS recycles more than one million tons of paper, plastic and other materials a year. A half billion Priority Mail and Express Mail packages and envelopes now meet higher environmental standards and more than 15,000 metric tons of carbon equivalent emissions are eliminated every year.

"Our mission is to deliver now -- and for future generations," said Sam Pulcrano, vice president, sustainability. "With every step we take, we are committed to leaving a green footprint across the American landscape."

In select Post Offices, USPS is providing postage-paid envelopes to recycle small electronics, including PDAs, cell phones and inkjet cartridges as part of their "Mail Back" pilot program to encourage consumers to recycle. Similarly, they have begun working with OSRAM SYLVANIA Veolia Environmental Services to help consumers properly recycle the highly toxic compact fluorescent lamps through the mail.

Arguably the largest initiative involves updating the 37,000 Post Offices to meet the goal of a 30 percent energy consumption reduction by 2015. High efficiency lighting and HVAC, recycled building materials, native landscaping, low water usage fixtures, and low VOC materials are being deployed in new and existing offices to meet this goal.

Also Interesting:

U.S. fastest growing wind energy market

DOE Investing up to \$130 Million in Advanced Fuel Cell Technology

New report shows White House influencing EPA decision about CA emissions laws

Greening the Gov: How the Air Force is reducing its 'addiction to oil'

Published Jun 02 2008, 12:35 PM by Andrew B. Einhorn

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Wednesday, June 4, 2008

2. U.S. Postal Service Taps P-card Provider

Mail service signs up with U.S. Bank for purchasing cards and Voyager fleet cards under new GSA SmartPay2 contract; bank extends work with Transportation Department, defense agencies

By Editorial Staff

Washington, DC — June 2, 2008 — The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has selected U.S. Bank, lead bank of U.S. Bancorp, to provide purchasing cards and Voyager fleet cards under the new General Services Administration (GSA) SmartPay2 contract. The U.S. Postal Service has been a U.S. Bank client for the past nine years under the current GSA SmartPay contract.

"With this win, we are extremely pleased to retain this important customer," said Doug Ichiuji, senior vice president and head of government services for U.S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems. "As our partnership with the USPS extends beyond card products as a 'relationship bank' ensuring that we provide them with best in class banking products and services is at the core of our commitment to the USPS."

"The Postal Service has one of the largest purchasing card programs in the federal government and the world's largest fleet card program. They're a great partner, and this was a very competitive process, so the win is especially gratifying," said Andrew Gillen, director of civilian agency programs for U.S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems.

Earlier this year, U.S. Bank earned the purchasing card business for the U.S. Department of Transportation and the United States Air Force and defense agencies. Under the GSA SmartPay 2 contract, each government agency issues a task order to solicit proposals from the four card issuers who qualified for a contract under GSA SmartPay2. Potentially, the estimated charge volume could be approximately \$13 billion over the term of the contract, if all options are exercised.

U.S. Bank offers travel, purchasing, fleet and integrated payment products, as well as technologies such as the Access Online program management tool and PowerTrack, an electronic invoice payment and presentment tool used by the Department of Defense and other government agencies.

U.S. Bank has served federal agencies since the inception of the purchase card program in 1986. It was the sole provider of purchase cards during the International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card (I.M.P.A.C.) program from 1988 to 1998, and is one of several providers participating in the current GSA SmartPay program, which ends in 2008.

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3. Ireland: CWU looks to the future of a liberalised European postal market

06/02/2008

UNI Post & Logistics recently attended the bi-annual conference of the CWU Ireland, and Neil Anderson Head of UNI Post & Logistics and John Baldwin from the CWU UK, who is the Chair of the Post European Social Dialogue, made contributions to the conference on how UNI was dealing with the liberalisation in the postal market in Europe. The conference heard that the decision by the European Parliament to proceed with Postal Liberalisation was disappointing but nevertheless the delay achieved by the Unions in UNI Global Union gives the opportunity to prepare for full competition. The conference also heard from the CWU General Secretary, Steve Fitzpatrick, who said the union now needs to do work to ensure that the Irish Government transposes the European Directive on this matter into Irish Law, fully recognising the importance of the Universal Service Obligation. He also said that "the Postal and Courier market has continued to develop with a shift away from letter mail, due to electronic substitution, to an increase in the delivery of physical mail (i.e. expresses, packets, parcels and logistics). Indeed, in the delivery area, the lines between parcel and logistics, collections and deliveries have become increasingly blurred. The main players in the express, packet, parcel and logistics collection and delivery industry are DHL, TNT, Federal Express, with UPS and Interlink the only two companies within which we have Union representation for the CWU. Some

elements of those major international courier firms are organised by other Unions and there will be an increasing need for us to co-operate with those Unions, in order to ensure the whole collection and delivery market is organised.”

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4. Post office closures will set off outcry, say MPs

2008-06-02

SNP Postal Services spokesperson, Mike Weir MP, has welcomed the latest report from the Commons Business and Enterprise Select Committee on the future of Post Offices, and pressed for the current review of postal services to take account of the role of the post office network in delivery of the universal service obligation.

The Committee has expressed concerns about the future size of the Post Office network and the ambiguity between the position of the UK Government and the Post Office.

Mr Weir, who is a member of the Business and Enterprise Select Committee, said:

"There must be absolute clarity on the future of the network. We are currently going through a closure programme that is causing huge concern in all areas, yet we have not received any assurance that it will definitely be the last such scheme.

"If UK Ministers do not guarantee that the Post Office receives the contract for the Post Office Card Account, currently out to tender, then it is very likely there would be another substantial round of closures."

Mr Weir also strongly supported the concerns highlighted in the report relating to the finances of the Post Office.

Mr Weir added:

"The UK Government and the Post Office must accept the need for greater clarity on finances.

"The Post Office is not a normal business but one wholly owned by the government and in receipt of very substantial amounts of taxpayers money.

"We are entitled to full information on how this is used yet many campaigning against post office closures find it very difficult to get relevant financial information.

"We must also acknowledge the very close connection between the Post Office network and the universal service obligation.

"It is of great concern that the current review of postal services does not include within its remit the post office network.

"It is vital that the role of the network in delivering the USO is not downplayed, a point I have strongly made to the review group."

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5. Belgium open to postal ties to Scandinavian group

Sat May 31, 2008 5:10am EDT

BRUSSELS, May 31 (Reuters) - Belgium is open to the idea of its postal service becoming part of the new joint Danish-Swedish mail group, a minister told Belgian business daily De Tijd in a story published on Saturday.

"The cultures of the three groups fit each other," Inge Vervotte, minister in charge of public companies told the newspaper.

Sweden and Denmark agreed in April to merge the two countries' post offices, creating a company with annual revenues of about \$7.5 billion that will eventually be listed.

Sweden will own 58.23 percent of the capital. The letter of intent was also signed by private equity firm CVC Capital Partners which owns a minority stake in Post Danmark, the Danish post office.

The move has led to speculation about what might happen to Belgium's postal service, in which the Belgian state has 50 percent and one share. Post Danmark and CVC have the remaining stake of just under 50 percent.

Vervotte was open to the idea of Belgium's La Poste/De Post, and its 37,000 workers, becoming part of the new Scandinavian group.

"You can never rule out something like that. But I want to keep a majority interest," she said, adding she did not see a merger taking place immediately.

Belgium has similarly said it wishes to retain control over former telecom monopoly Belgacom (BCOM.BR: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#)), but might be ready to lower its stake if Belgacom found a merger partner.

(Reporting by Philip Blenkinsop; editing by Christopher Johnson)

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6. POSTAL SERVICE IS WORST IN BRITAIN

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09:40 - 31 May 2008

Postal services in Stoke-on-Trent were the worst in the country in the past year.

Royal Mail's latest report to postal regulator Postcomm shows that less than four out of five first-class letters were delivered on time in the city.

The company, unions and consumer groups agree that industrial action has taken its toll on the services after weeks of strikes were held because of a bitter row at Burslem's delivery office.

Lee Barron, Midlands regional secretary of the Communication Workers' Union, blamed Royal Mail for its treatment of workers.

The company said it was working to improve services. But Mr Barron said if plans to close the Stoke sorting office and ship the work to Wolverhampton materialised, postal services in the city would get worse.

He said: "Industrial action will have an impact on quality, without a shadow of a doubt, but to say it is the union's fault is narrow-minded and short-sighted.

"Royal Mail was hell-bent on making changes in the workforce without taking the workforce with it, so Royal Mail has got to take the brunt of the results.

"But it is not going to do any good blaming each other for bad results - that won't do anything for the people of Stoke-on-Trent.

"And that is why the union is against this ludicrous idea that we can improve quality by moving mail 40 miles down the road to Wolverhampton.

"The mail should stay in Stoke-on-Trent. If it all goes to Wolverhampton then the problems are only going to get worse."

Royal Mail's reports showed 79.4 per cent of first-class post in the ST postcode area arrived the next day in the 12 months to April.

Meanwhile, 86.4 per cent of letters posted in Crewe arrived on time.

Despite its bottom-of-the-league performance, Stoke-on-Trent's postmen did deliver 85.6 per cent of first-class letters the next day in the past three months.

However, less than three-quarters of mail delivered in the second and third quarters of the year was on time.

Delivery services were hit by postmen striking following the suspension of 12 workers in December 2006.

Five have since been dismissed and are currently appealing against the decision.

Across the UK, just over 85 per cent of first-class letters were delivered the day after posting in the year to the end of March, against a target of 93 per cent.

The figure for second-class post was 95.7 per cent compared with a target of 98.5 per cent.

Postwatch chairman Millie Banerjee said Royal Mail's recovery was "severely blown off course" by strike action.

She said: "What the figures do not reveal is what effect the strikes have had on the posting habits of social and business customers. Many of these customers had to find other ways to communicate.

"This will have reduced postal volumes, which will in turn damage Royal Mail's financial stability for years to come. Average daily volumes are down from 84 million items to about 80 million."

Tom Willis, Royal Mail's area general manager for the north-west Midlands, said: "The immediate objective for everyone working in the business is to deliver further improvements in quality of service to customers and restore the record levels seen before last year's disputes."

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