The Industry’s Leading Fuel Purchase Optimization System

IDSC’s Expert Fuel optimization system has earned a reputation for being the best in the industry by saving customers millions of dollars in fuel expenses every year. On average, customers realize savings of 4 cents per gallon on a closed network, and 8 cents per gallon on an open network. Savings are the same whether you buy 1 million gallons of fuel per year or per week. The fact is, there is always variation in fuel price, even when fuel prices are low, and even within network. Expert Fuel takes full advantage of the variation of fuel prices and across the network—more available stops mean more options, more options mean more savings. Expert Fuel provides the driver with an optimized fuel plan at the time of dispatch determining where and how much to fuel in order to minimize the cost of fuel. Combined with the fuel plan, the driver also receives the most efficient route plan providing further savings in reduced out-of-route miles.

Optimize Your Fuel Network Design

Another dimension to fuel savings is optimizing your fuel network design. Additional costs are greatly reduced by renegotiating discounts and evaluating other fuel networks and fuel card providers. Expert Fuel utilizes your fuel location network and up-to-date fuel location pricing to provide the ability to build and define your network, evaluate new locations and pricing strategies, and compare company terminal costs. Multiple optimization options are available to model different cost vs. savings situations.

Leverage Your Dispatch and Mobile Communications Systems

Expert Fuel integrates seamlessly with your existing dispatch and mobile communications systems for fast implementation and for maximizing the return on your technology investments. As with every software module from Integrated Decision Support, Expert Fuel integrates with our entire product suite for a complete end-to-end planning and execution transportation management system designed to accelerate the profitability of your fleet. For more information, contact us toll-free at 877-671-0045 or email us at sales@idscnet.com.
Features and Functionality

Sophisticated Technology, Optimal Savings

Expert Fuel blends the technology power of your existing dispatch and mobile communications systems with best-in-class fuel pricing and routing data to deliver drivers with optimized fuel purchase and route plans at the time of dispatch. Fuel plans are generated using IDSC’s unique patent-pending algorithm to calculate all essential factors—in real-time, and in a matter of seconds. All relevant route and vehicle factors are considered in the solution including: current fuel prices, fuel level, vehicle fuel consumption, state tax implications, fuel network implications, out-of-route miles, route policies, terminal fueling policies, tank fill policies, and driver amenities.

Expert Fuel’s easy-to-use design offers flexibility and versatility with features that include extensive amenity information, an intuitive menu system organized to follow driver manager logic, parameter settings easily controlled and inclusive of business rules and processes, and sophisticated screen design that maintains discounts and location information from the same screen. Flexibility throughout the screens is built-in for easy data sorting, filtering, and global updates. Other extras include enhanced via point logic with wizard driven via point creation, radius enabled origin and destination, and routing through postal code or latitude / longitude.

Expert Fuel integrates directly with IDSC’s Trip Alert® for more advanced out-of-route management and swap capabilities and also to IDSC’s Route Advice® for the most accurate turn-by-turn driver directions. Each module is engineered to create greater efficiencies and savings in concert with savings from Expert Fuel.

Robust Real-Time and Historical Reporting

Expert Fuel generates several real-time and historical reports with drill-down detail for extensive data mining. These reports give management the high-value intelligence needed to make informed decisions on driver performance and compliance, and fuel network design. Total custom reporting is made easy with built-in wizards, printing flexibility, and export capability. Sample reports include but aren’t limited to:

- What-if analysis
- Price analysis report
- Driver compliance
- Purchase summary
- Network coverage recommendations
- Consider multiple cost structures

Graphical Interface for Global Visibility of Your Fleet

With IDSC’s graphical information system, Netgraf®, you can quickly display your network of locations labeled by effective price per gallon to better understand network needs as well as how best to negotiate discounts. Use these graphs to understand where locations are needed in order to improve coverage and compliance. Increased compliance translates into increased fuel savings.

Advanced queries can be performed by network, highway, and state to visualize the variation in fuel prices along major traffic lanes, allowing you to optimize the design of your fuel network.

Netgraf is easy to use, yet powerful enough to display business data on a monthly, weekly, daily, or even on a real-time basis.
Customer Comments

Guaranteed Savings

“Expert Fuel is not only the best model, it’s the easiest. It’s easy to understand, easy to explain, and easy to manage. Savings are guaranteed independent of marketing or operating plans. We experience savings of 3.5 - 4 cents per gallon on a closed network, and 7 cents per gallon on an open network.”

—David Samples, Director of Operations Engineering
U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc.
Expert Fuel customer since 1995

“Why do we use Expert Fuel? $1,200 savings per truck, per year.”
—Dale Lavin, Fuel Manager
West Side Unlimited

Ease-of-Use

“We save the entire cost of Expert Fuel every single month. I can’t think of another software product that saves us so much with so little effort. It almost runs itself.”

—Marc Stewart, CFO
Shippers Transport

Proven Profitability

“Since implementing Expert Fuel® over a year ago, all of my expectations for this product have been fulfilled! The program has been well received by our drivers and has added dollars to our bottom-line. The customer support department is to be commended as well for their quick response to our questions during implementation and operation.”

—Greg Schreiber, IT Manager
H.F. Campbell & Sons, Inc.

Driver Benefits

“Fuel is one of our biggest expenses and this technology allows us to lower our fuel cost per gallon, reduce out-of-route miles and provide an efficient trip plan for the drivers. We chose IDSC because the technology works, it saves us money on fuel and the support is excellent.”

—Max Pietsch, Director of Operations
Schneider National

Customer Service

“The use of Expert Fuel has brought our operation to a new level. It provides a guide to disciplined purchasing and routing. Watch it enhance your buying leverage as well.”

—Bill Harris, Vice President
Merit

Return On Investment

“I would like to take a moment and let you know how much I have appreciated working with the Expert Fuel program. It has saved me so much time and effort compiling my network fuel stops and optimizing my equipment to save money on fuel purchases. When I started this job 7 months ago my trucks were only 17% compliant using the optimizer. Today we are at 74% compliant using the Expert Fuel system. The money we save on fuel well exceeds the money that we paid for the program. I am very happy with the product. But, most of all, the customer service that I receive is fantastic. If I have any problems with routing, programming — anything at all — they address it immediately and usually solve my problem within minutes. They are very pleasant to work with.”

—Carrie Burbidge, Fuel & Tax Director
Central Refrigerated Service, Inc.
Competitive Edge

“The IDSC Expert Fuel and Out-of-Route products allow a company to create process ownership in a seamless manner that adds value to the bottom-line through the management of its critical systems. To put it in real numbers, we have saved an approximate 4.5 cents per gallon over the average prices along our routes, doubled our discounts with fuel vendors, and reduced our out-of-route miles by 50%. These are real savings that have a real impact. Why more companies aren’t utilizing an IDSC product or a like product is ridiculous in this day of automation.

Having come from the technology industry, the transportation industry is around 15 years behind in technology advancement. Our organization views this lack of technology as a competitive advantage. IDSC’s products are just one way in which we are taking advantage of our competition’s inability to see the true return on investment.”

—Mike Owens, CIO/CFO
Gulf Coast

High-Tech—High-Touch

“Smith Transport has been using Expert Fuel for over two years and it has consistently met and exceeded our expectations. Our goal was to improve the variance to DOE pricing by $.03 to $.04 with an 80% compliance. We are currently experiencing 85% compliance levels putting us as low as $.13 under DOE average—giving us a net improvement of $.07.

Having Expert Fuel gives you extra leverage in discount negotiations as well.”

—John Mittermeier, Executive Director
Smith Transport

“Expert Fuel has proven to be an effective tool for our company, helping us to lower our fuel cost, the second largest expense item in our budget. Our fueling decisions are now based on up to date information and parameters that are important to us and our drivers. In the event that we experience any problems, we can always count on the responsive Integrated staff to solve them quickly.”

—I personally recommend Expert Fuel and would not want to be responsible for fuel cost without it. We have been using Expert Fuel for three years, and our initial expectation was to see a 2 to 3 cents per gallon improvement. Instead, we achieved 5 cents. The gauge is to compare against a standard such as the DOE average. We had a baseline of 3 to 4 cents better than DOE. Our improvement has been as high as 11 cents variance to DOE and we are currently experiencing 8 cents better than DOE at 77% compliance.”

“The reporting with Expert Fuel is superior. The compliance reporting feature shows the dollars lost by non compliance, making it easier to counsel a driver on the benefits of compliance.”

—Dale Lavin, Fuel Manager
West Side Unlimited

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