

Clifford Thames launches ATHORIS to the fleet car industry

Clifford Thames, a leading provider of consultancy and support services to the automotive industry, announces the launch of ATHORIS, an online quotation, authorisation and invoice management system for the fleet vehicle service sector. This revolutionary system significantly reduces administration costs between leasing companies and dealers and greatly improves process efficiency.

ATHORIS enables dealers to electronically submit fleet servicing requests to leasing companies for approval. Authorisation 'profiles' created by the leasing company check to ensure that the requested work is in line with vehicle contract terms and conditions. In the vast majority of cases, automatic authorisation to proceed is granted and work on the fleet vehicle can commence. ATHORIS completes the process by creating and sending the dealers' electronic invoice directly to the leasing companies' accounting system.

- ATHORIS uses enhanced online functionality, enabling leasing companies to manage servicing for their fleet vehicles more efficiently and with greater transparency and control.
- Leasing companies benefit from a significant reduction in administration costs as a result of automatic authorisation, receiving fewer queried invoices and the ability to book appointments for their fleet vehicles online using an industry-best online booking system.
- Dealers will benefit from greater efficiency, lower administration cost and increased workshop throughput.

Several large vehicle manufacturers have entered into an agreement with Clifford Thames representing nearly 45% of fleet vehicle volume in Europe. It is the goal to extend the vehicle manufacturer participation and discussions are taking place to make that happen. ATHORIS is being rolled-out across Europe with Clifford Thames also providing local market support and training to the users of the system.

Andrew Brown, Manager, Clifford Thames Fleet Services, said: "In Europe, the fleet management processes are labour intensive and use legacy systems. In ATHORIS we have created a streamlined process that greatly reduces administrative cost and improves efficiency. This system will change the way leasing companies manage their fleet vehicles, and it will speed up the payment process for dealers."

"In terms of cost savings, a dealer currently must create an invoice, print the invoice, place it in an envelope, put a stamp on and post it. Rough estimates of the cost of doing this range from €5 to €10 per invoice. ATHORIS charges are a fraction of this while also including the creation and electronic delivery of the invoice to the leasing company. ATHORIS will also deliver massive savings for leasing companies that manage thousands of invoices each month."

David Riemenschneider, Chief Executive of Clifford Thames, said: "We are delighted to be able to launch ATHORIS to the market, which is a revolutionary new product and builds upon our unrivalled reputation for delivering innovative solutions to the automobile industry."

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PRESS RELEASE

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Notes to Editors:

Clifford Thames is a leading edge automotive industry consultant and support services supplier.

The company started printing specialist publications for car manufacturers in 1964 but moved in 1985 to become the designer and provider of sophisticated electronic data bases that OEM appointed dealers use in the servicing and repair of vehicles. All manufacturers have different ways of storing parts data so Clifford Thames offers 'user friendly' bespoke solutions.

Clifford Thames is the industry leader in this respect and it has a blue chip OEM client base that is genuinely global. It works with well over 20 of the leading car manufacturers and now has offices in eight countries throughout the world, including operations in India and Poland, with embedded staff working alongside OEM clients in many markets. Its applications are translated into more than 25 languages. Employees are both multi-national and highly qualified.

More information can be obtained from the company website: www.clifford-thames.com