



EasyGo: a decade of toll collection across Europe

24 million transactions have been conducted in the 10 years EasyGo has been in existence. EasyGo is keen to recruit new partners and expects more countries to join the partnership in the years ahead.

Throughout Scandinavia and across Austria drivers are able to use the same payment device for toll roads, bridges etc. The system that makes it all possible is known as EasyGo®, a joint venture between toll collectors in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Austria. On 1 March, EasyGo® will have been in operation for 10 years.

Initial discussions about EasyGo – the first cross-border payment solution of its type in Europe - began in 2004 when the Svinesund Bridge between Norway and Sweden was under construction. As negotiations progressed, the Norwegian and Swedish Transport authorities joined forces with Sund & Bælt, the operator of the Storebælt Bridge, and Øresundbro Konsortiet, the operator of the Øresund Bridge. Thus, the EasyGo joint venture was established in 2007 with Sund & Bælt Holding in Denmark, Øresundbro Konsortiet, a Danish/Swedish joint venture, the Norwegian Public Roads Administration and the Swedish Transport Agency as partners. Austria's ASFINAG joined the partnership in 2009.

Discussions with new partners

24 million EasyGo transactions, corresponding to € 700 million, have been conducted in the past decade.

“With 10 years of successful operations behind us, we’ve proved that EasyGo is a great system that makes travelling much easier. Every day our customers benefit from being able to drive through toll stations throughout Scandinavia without having to stop,” says Mogens Hansen, Chairman of the EasyGo Steering Committee and CFO of Sund & Bælt Holding.

EasyGo is keen to attract more European partners into the scheme. That EETS (European Electronic Toll Service) providers also use the EasyGo data exchange model has increased the benefits of toll chargers joining the scheme. EasyGo aims to support solutions to enable drivers across Europe to drive through toll stations from North to South and from East to West using the same OBE.

“We’re currently in discussions with several European countries concerning extending the EasyGo service,” says Mogens Hansen.

From the outset, EasyGo has complied with existing EC legislation on the interoperability of electronic road toll systems (Directive 2004/52/EC and the subsequent EETS Decision 2009/750/EC - European Electronic Toll Service). Three of the EasyGo partners participated in the project (REETS TEN www.reets.eu) which aims at deploying EETS compliant services in a cross-border regional project. The EasyGo solution has proved its value since six European Service providers, of which five are approved EETS providers, now provide an OBE and data exchange in line with EasyGo specifications.

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