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The VIA T device makes it quick and easy to access car parks, permitting entry and exit without tickets, without going to the pay station and without even having to stop the car.

Saba is beginning to introduce VIA T in Barcelona as a new access and payment system in its car parks, which will later be extended across its entire network

- By launching the VIA T system in the entrance and exit routes of all its car parks, Saba is enhancing the quality of the service provided, resulting in more convenient facilities, savings on time and fuel and easier access to the car parks.
- Since 2004, Saba has been working to extend this international electronic payment and control system throughout its car parks in Spain, Portugal, Chile, France and Italy. It is the same system that is currently in use on all motorways, meaning that the two services are complementary.
- After several successful pilots in Barcelona and Santiago de Chile that found it was used over 40% of the time in car parks open to the general public, the company is now beginning to introduce the VIA T system in the entrance and exit routes of all its car parks in Barcelona.
- Starting tomorrow, Saba will be participating in the second edition of the Smart City Expo World Congress, which will run until 15 November in Barcelona. The company will be presenting new technologies used in parking and urban mobility to improve sustainability and provide flexible traffic management, demonstrating its approach to parking as an element of mobility management.

Barcelona, 12 November 2012

In keeping with the company's aims to consolidate its position as a business at the forefront of technological development and added value services for customers, from 19 November, Saba will be introducing the VIA T electronic access and payment system in the majority of its car parks located in the city of Barcelona. This is just the beginning of the implementation of the system, which the company will continue to introduce in subsequent phases throughout its entire network of car parks. Previously, this technology was a payment option that could only be used when exiting car parks, but from now on, following the successful introduction of the necessary technological adaptations and after completing the relevant administrative procedures, it will also be installed on entrance routes to offer a way of accessing car parks.

Using this international dynamic payment system – which is the same system currently used on most motorways – makes it quicker and easier to access car parks, as it allows drivers to enter and exit without tickets, without having to stop the vehicle on either the access or exit routes and without having to go to the pay station, all while saving time and fuel. In this way, Saba is providing a better quality of service and increased convenience in its facilities, while also improving ease of access to its car parks. Moreover, Saba will also be simultaneously implementing a promotion and loyalty campaign for this new system.

The company is thus working towards its goal of improving urban mobility and the environment in the cities where it operates, while also helping to improve the quality of life of residents and satisfying the needs of its customers. Innovation, the use of new technologies and the design of car parks as a fundamental element for mobility and access to city centres and metropolitan areas represent some of the factors that guide the company's development and management.

Successful pilots in Barcelona and Santiago

Since 2004, Saba has been working to extend this electronic payment system to all its car parks in Spain, Portugal, Chile, France and Italy. Several successful pilots carried out in Mataró (Barcelona), Barcelona and Santiago de Chile have enabled Saba to validate this system and begin to gradually roll it out throughout its network.

For example, the outcome of the pilot conducted in the Santa Anna car park in Mataró last June shows that since the system was implemented, around 40% of daily customers and 50% of subscribers choose to use this payment system to enter and exit the car park without having to stop their vehicles. Furthermore, VIA T has become the most popular payment method for this car park, topping credit cards and cash. As for the pilots carried out in September and October in the Gràcia I and Gràcia II car parks in Barcelona, the results show that the use of VIA T as payment method has tripled.

Likewise, in Chile, Saba has underpinned its measures to promote innovation and the use of new technologies by introducing TAG, a system similar to VIA T, in its Plaza de la Ciudadanía car park in March. The good results achieved with this pilot will also allow the system to be validated and extended throughout all the car parks in the Chilean capital over the coming months.

Implementation schedule for the city of Barcelona

The VIA T system is currently operating in the entrance and exit routes of Saba's Santa Anna car park in Mataró and in two locations in Barcelona, Gràcia I and Gràcia II.

It will be operating in a further five car parks in Barcelona from 19 November: Gràcia III, Catedral, Urquinaona, Rambla and Plaça Catalunya.

The system is scheduled to be introduced in another seven car parks in Barcelona over the month of December: Diputació, Pau Claris, Hospital Clínic, Travessera 43, Travessera 17, Pau Casals and Lluís Companys.

Saba at the 2nd Smart City Expo World Congress

Starting tomorrow, Saba will be participating in the second edition of the Smart City World Expo Congress, which will run until next Thursday, 15 November, at Fira de Barcelona's Gran Via venue. Here, the company will be presenting the introduction of the electronic payment system at entry and exit as an example of the innovation and new technologies used in parking and urban mobility that seek to improve sustainability and incorporate flexibility into traffic management.

In addition, Saba will be outlining its approach to tackle the problems associated with urban mobility in current city models (including congestion, pollution and private vehicle use) and to how parking can become an element for managing mobility, sustainability and traffic calming.

At the moment, Saba is working on what will be the biggest and most innovative urban hub for mobility – the expansion of the Villa Borghese car park in the centre of Rome, an infrastructure that was already being managed by the company. This project is connected to Rome City Council's desire to pedestrianise the city centre, and will mean providing the Italian capital with an interconnecting hub that will combine public urban transport (electric buses), tourist transport and vehicles belonging to both the general public and local residents.

As part of the trend to develop smart solutions, Saba has set up a "smart zone" at its corporate headquarters at the Parc Logístic in Barcelona that is open to public authorities, technology partners and urban service companies, among other entities. This area, designed as a test bed, is a place where urban mobility services are reproduced and given the necessary infrastructures to imitate a smart city on a small scale. It includes, for example, location of spaces, recharging for electric vehicles, and remote management.

About Saba Infraestructuras

Saba Infraestructuras is a benchmark in car park and logistics park management. It is present in six countries (Spain, Italy, Chile, Portugal, France and Andorra) and employs around 1,300 staff. The company has been working in car park management through Saba Aparcamientos since 1966, and in logistics park management through Saba Parques Logísticos since 1999.

Saba manages around 140,000 parking spaces spread over more than 200 car parks, and collaborates in the management of 11 logistics parks with a gross area of approximately 700 hectares and a built area of one million square metres.