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Automatic ticketing (AT)

FAIRTIQ and BLS join forces

FAIRTIQ and BLS with its “lezzgo” app, the two pioneers of automatic ticketing, are teaming up: customers will now have access to FAIRTIQ’s back-end system for check-in functionality. This means that “lezzgo” will thereby be discontinued. BLS now champions the interests of automatic ticketing on public transport committees in Switzerland.

Since 2016, FAIRTIQ and BLS have served as the key driving forces behind the development and growth of a national standard for automatic ticketing (AT) in Switzerland. This pioneering act is still unique world-wide. These two technological leaders are now taking one step further in the pooling of resources and the focus on customer benefit. In future, “BLS Mobil” will utilise the back-end systems of FAIRTIQ’s AT functionality. This adaptation will occur with the timetable change in December 2020.

A unique success story

“What we have managed to achieve in such a short time here in Switzerland is a globally unparalleled success story,” states Gian-Mattia Schucan, CEO of FAIRTIQ. “We are thereby providing the perfect foundation for using this Swiss solution to also generate international headlines.” The competition between the two systems has meant that, in technological terms and in comparison to the sector’s regulations, this development has been achieved much faster than if one of these players had forged this path alone. Today, over 200,000 customers are already using the functionality provided by these two technological leaders via a range of apps.

BLS uses its influence on public transport committees

BLS will no longer continue to develop its proprietary “lezzgo” app, although parts of the “lezzgo” programme code may yet be integrated into FAIRTIQ. This will help to further improve and refine the check-in functionality.

As Switzerland’s second-biggest railway operator, BLS will in future use its influence on public transport committees and will champion the evolution of the ticket standard. At the same time, BLS will work closely with FAIRTIQ and bring its experience in automatic ticketing to bear. “By taking this step, we are focusing on customers and simplifying access to public transport even further – for innovative and modern mobility in Switzerland”, says Daniel Hofer, Director of Passenger Mobility at BLS.

BLS backs its BLS Mobil app

Alongside the check-in and check-out function from FAIRTIQ, BLS Mobil offers numerous additional features such as a real-time timetable, the ability to purchase and validate multi-trip tickets, discounts such as supersaver tickets, an easy-to-use Saver Day Pass calendar for the next two months, SwissPass compatibility and the purchasing of Switzerland-wide tickets and day tickets.

BLS Ltd in brief

BLS is the largest independent private railway company in Switzerland. It operates the standard gauge section of the Bernese S-Bahn, Lucerne West S-Bahn, as well as several regional lines in a total of seven cantons. As a transport company, its activities also include the Lötschberg car transport service, Bernese Oberland Navigation and bus services of Busland AG in the Emmental area. BLS also provides its customers with 33 travel centres and ticket offices. Thanks to its subsidiary company BLS Cargo Ltd, BLS is also well represented in the freight transport sector. BLS Netz AG runs the Lötschberg base tunnel (NRLA) through the Alps and a rail network that is 420 kilometres in length.

In 2019, BLS Ltd transported 67.7 million people by rail, bus and boat. The Group employs a workforce of around 3,400. More details: [geschaeftsbericht.bls.ch](https://www.bls.ch/geschaeftsbericht)

About FAIRTIQ

FAIRTIQ is an innovative, dynamic start-up company based in Bern that aims to make travelling by public transport as straightforward as possible. The free ticketing app developed and operated by FAIRTIQ can already be used to travel by public transport throughout Switzerland and Liechtenstein, as well as in parts of Germany and Austria. With over a million journeys per month before the coronavirus pandemic, it is the world's most successful hardware-free check-in/check-out solution, available for iPhone and Android.

FAIRTIQ collaborates with transport companies in Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein. SBB and ÖBB have also embraced FAIRTIQ and use the technology developed by FAIRTIQ in their own respective apps. FAIRTIQ is looking forward to collaborating with BLS even more closely. FAIRTIQ Ltd continues to operate the popular FAIRTIQ App - in Switzerland and internationally.