Chordant
The Bridge to Smarter Cities

With over two decades of experience, Mika Rasinkangas, VP and general manager, ChordantTM, strongly believes in taking a holistic view of a smart city's data flow. A business of global mobile technology R&D company and standards leader InterDigital, ChordantTM has carved a niche for itself through its platform based on a global oneM2MTM standard that can serve a myriad of smart city requirements as opposed to viewing them as siloed use cases. "We provide a smart city platform that unifies individual use case solutions to induce greater vibrancy in smart city deployments like intelligent transportation and smart lighting," says Rasinkangas.

Modular by architecture, the Chordant smart city platform is "horizontal" in nature, which makes it industry-agnostic and offers the flexibility to incrementally build services and use cases. "The Chordant platform has inbuilt codes for common services, which eliminate the need for users to develop software from scratch," says Rasinkangas. The Chordant platform integrates data of any format from several types of sources—air quality sensors, traffic sensors, and even full systems— through an intelligent adapter concept, which then delivers data to any service or application. Further, the exponential increase in data necessitates systems to be scalable at multiple levels, which the microservices architecture of the Chordant platform supports on a service-by-service basis. The platform even enables organizations to share and monetize their data through Chordant's service, the oneTRANSPORTTM data marketplace.

The host of benefits enabled by the Chordant platform has powered several smart city projects. In a medium-sized city in the UK, the presence of a soccer stadium in the city center posed traffic management challenges on Saturday afternoons when matches were held. People tried to enter and exit the stadium in large numbers, which not only clogged the stadium's parking lot but also crippled the city's traffic management as people were left searching for parking availability. To mitigate the problem, the city council turned to Chordant, which, after taking stock of the situation, utilized the oneTRANSPORT data marketplace to actively collect data pertaining to the traffic flowing into the city center from multiple sources, the number of tickets sold, and so forth. The collected data was used to display real-time notifications on displays across the city regarding the availability of parking slots in the city center. The solution not only improved traffic management near the stadium during matchdays, but also helped people easily find alternative parking spaces within the city without needlessly driving around; a substantial improvement in air quality was also recorded.

Chordant sees tremendous scope for improvement in the transportation area, where a plethora of data silos exist and hinder efficient utilization of available

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data. Sprucing up services in cities such as ambulances and school buses through strategies like mobility-as-a-service is an area of focus for the company. "Both public and private sector entities that consume data from multiple sources to provide different kinds of services are looking to leverage the oneTRANSPORT data marketplace," concludes Rasinkangas. CR