The Present and Future of the Postal Automation System: In Quest of more Advanced Recognition Technology

Deutsche Post World Net

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Company Profile

Projects to increase the Reading Rate

Coding and Sorting Data Files

Current Problems

Future Prospects

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- Company Profile

Structure of Mail (2003)

	Amount p. y.	%	Address	%
Letters	E+1 10.232.657.791	51	handwritten	19
	E+4 3.294.708.364	17 ⟩ 68	printed	81
Flats	E+1 1.757.218.313	9	handwritten	10
	E+4 4.298.849.851	21 ⟩ 30	printed	90
Maxiletters	E+1 308.749.337	1,5	handwritten	n.a.
	E+4 66.176.136	0,5 ⟩ 2	printed	n.a.
Total		**100**		

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- **Company Profile**

Recognitions Components

	Scanner	Primary Reader	Secundary Reader	Delivery Barcode
Letters	Gray, Scale	Binary, 1 Scale	Binary, 1 Scale	Fluorescent Bar-No-Bar Type
Flats	Gray, Scale	Binary, 2 Scales	Binary, 2 Scales	No Barcode
Maxi Letters	No OCR			

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- Projects to increase the Reading Rate

Letter and Flat Sorting

- **Implementation of secundary readers, which are reading the rejects of the primary readers**
- **Improving the readrate in two steps (2003 and 2004)**

		Outgoing [1]			Incoming [1]		
		Readrate % [2] from	up to	Error Rate %	Readrate % [2] from	up to	Error Rate %
Letters	handwritten		75	2,3		52	1,4
	printed		95	0,5		91	0,4
Flats	handwritten		69	2,5		50	2,8
	printed		94	1,1		87	0,6
Maxi Letters				No OCR-Reading			

[1] incl. non charg

[2] based on comp
mailstream

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Deutsche Post World Net - Recognition Systems

Deutsche Post is

- user of the Recognition Systems - not developer

- purchasing the Systems (hardware and software) from the market
  (Machine suppliers, component suppliers, IT-supplier)

Deutsche Post does not

- integrate different software systems - that in done by the suppliers

- know the Algorithms of the software implemented in the Recognition
  Systems

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Deutsche Post World Net - Current Problems

☞ **Error Rate in Address Reading too high**

☞ **Spotting of Address Block (AOI) on Flats too difficult**

☞ **Recognition and Reading Rate of 2 D-Barcodes for Franking is too lo**

☞ **Customer Imprints on envelopes (i. e. Advertisements, ... Stamps, etc.) are disturbing the OCR and the Recognition Devices**

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Deutsche Post World Net - Future Prospects

☞ **Reducing the Error Rate of the OCR-Function**

☞ **Increasing the Reading Rate of difficult letters (little contrast betwe colour of envelope and colour of ink)**

☞ **Improving the AOI-Finding on Flats**

☞ **Improving Stamp Reading and Evaluation Features for Revenue Protection**

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