




Please complete this nomination form accurately, completely, but succinctly.

**1. Contact details**

Nominator (Person)	Nominating Organisation	Signature	Date	e-mail address
Shaheed Hendricks	Cape BPO		31 March 2026	shaheed@capebpo.org.za

Nominated Person	Nominated Organisation	Sub-sector one of the following: Private Sector or Academia or Public Sector or Non-Profit	Cell phone number	e-mail address
Wasief Chilwan	Bluebird Intelligent Transport	Private Sector	0835555552	wasief@bluebirdgroup.co.za

**2. Short description**

**Economic Impact & Job Creation**

Bluebird ITS plays a critical role in the Western Cape economy by enabling and supporting the growth of the large scale, job creating Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector within the Western Cape and South Africa. Blue Bird Intelligent Transport provides safe, reliable, door-to-door transport during unsociable hours. Bluebird in partnership with many international Business process centres over the years has supported the transportation of staff, making employment accessible to thousands of individuals who would otherwise be excluded due to transport limitations within many areas where public transport services are not accessible.

Currently, Bluebird Intelligent Transport commutes over 300,000 employees per month, with approximately 90% serving the BPO sector (call centre and support service industry). This reliable

transport solution has enabled international and local investors to scale significantly, with operations growing for some investors from a 400-seat site to 8,000-seat national operation over the past decade.

While staff transport exists globally, Bluebird's execution is a groundbreaking adaptation tailored specifically to the South African landscape. Unlike international software platforms that struggle with local challenges, Bluebird's proprietary technology includes:

- Offline functionality to bypass high mobile data costs
- Advanced geo-mapping capable of navigating informal settlements without formal addresses
- Route planning and scheduling to assist clients in ensuring high occupancy in vehicles.
- Employed drivers
- Owned assets
- Reports for on time arrivals, on time departures, no shows, exception booking and many more reports accessible to clients via a dashboard.

Additionally, Bluebird is unique in that it owns the entire end-to-end value chain, including the software, vehicles, and fully employed drivers ensuring complete operational control and service consistency.

### 3. Detailed description

Please answer all the questions (a) to (j) below, and **place answers** in the **prescribed place** as indicated in the **table below** (to construct a results chain).

For instance, the answer to question (a) should be written in the third column next to (a).

- a. What is the target business group/s that this innovation serves and improves?
- b. How many of these target businesses have already utilised this new solution?
- c. How did these businesses access and receive the new solution?
- d. What did this new solution help these businesses become better at?
- e. How did this help to improve their business performance? *Increased sales, lower costs, increased investment, increased employment, increased exports?*
- f. What exactly is this new innovative solution?
- g. What makes it new, compared to what existed before? (Novelty in WC economy)
- h. What makes it better than what existed before?
- i. How is/was the new solution made available to the target market / business group?
- j. What will ensure that the financial viability / sustainability of providing the innovative solution and the beneficial consequences remain intact over this period? *E.g. profitable business with an enduring competitive advantage in the market.* What is the expected longevity of this solution? *E.g. 5yrs, 10 yrs, 10+ years*

#### f. What exactly is this new innovative solution?

The innovation is the Automated Passenger Transport Management System (APTMS), integrated with a 100% owned fleet and employed driver model—a combination that delivers a fully controlled, end-to-end staff transport solution. Unlike fragmented or intermediary transport services, Bluebird provides clients with a complete system that ensures reliability, accountability, and operational efficiency.

The digital platform is designed to manage every aspect of workforce transport, and includes:

- Passenger booking applications for mobile and web, giving employees a simple, user-friendly interface to schedule their trips.
- Driver navigation apps with digital waybills, ensuring accurate pick-ups, safe routes, and verified service completion.
- Automated, algorithm-driven scheduling, which optimizes routes, minimizes travel time, and reduces operational costs.
- Live Business Intelligence (BI) dashboards, providing real-time insights into attendance, route efficiency, operational exceptions, and cost allocation.

Crucially, this technology is paired with Bluebird's fully owned fleet, employed drivers, and 24/7 control rooms, giving clients complete visibility and control over every aspect of their transport operations. This integrated approach ensures:

- Consistent, on-time workforce attendance, meeting strict SLA requirements and reducing absenteeism.
- Full control over costs, operations, and performance, enabling predictable budgets and scalable workforce deployment.
- Confidence for international investors, as reliable transport underpins operational stability and service delivery.
- Job creation and talent retention within the Western Cape, as safe, dependable transport

broadens workforce accessibility.

By combining advanced digital management with operational ownership, the Bluebird solution transforms staff transport from a logistical challenge into a strategic business enabler improving productivity, reducing costs, enhancing compliance, and supporting long-term growth.

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g. What makes it new compared to what existed before? (Novelty in the Western Cape economy)

Before Bluebird's innovation, staff transport in the Western Cape was disjointed, inefficient, and largely dependent on unregulated public transport or outsourced fleets. Companies faced numerous challenges, including:

- Unreliable and unsafe public transport, particularly during early morning, late-night, or unsociable hours.
- Manual, paper-based waybills, creating inefficiencies, errors, and limited operational visibility.
- Outsourced fleets charged per vehicle, offering little focus on cost efficiency per passenger or route optimization.

Bluebird transformed this landscape by introducing the first fully digitized, locally developed, end-to-end staff transport platform. The solution integrates technology, operational control, and safety, delivering a model that is both innovative and uniquely suited to the local context.

Key innovations that distinguish Bluebird in the Western Cape include:

- Offline system functionality, addressing high mobile data costs and ensuring uninterrupted access for passengers and drivers in low-connectivity areas.
- Proprietary geo-mapping, enabling safe and efficient navigation through informal settlements and complex urban routes.
- True door-to-door transport services, available 24/7, including early mornings, late nights, and unsociable hours when alternatives are limited.
- Trained and employed drivers, ensuring accountability, safety, and consistent service quality.
- Owned fleet, giving full operational control, cost predictability, and scalable capacity.
- 24-hour control room, monitoring every trip in real-time to resolve operational exceptions immediately.
- Passenger application for mobile and web, providing simple, self-service booking and scheduling.
- Driver digital waybills, improving verification, accountability, and route accuracy.
- Client dashboard, giving organizations real-time business intelligence on workforce attendance, route efficiency, and cost allocation.

Together, these innovations represent a shift in staff transport: from a disconnected, inefficient service to a fully integrated, technology-enabled, and safe transport ecosystem. By addressing local challenges—such as high data costs, informal settlement navigation, and workforce reliability—Bluebird has introduced a model that not only improves operational efficiency but also strengthens business continuity, workforce safety, and economic growth in the region

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**h. What makes it better than what existed before?**

Bluebird's solution sets a new standard in staff transport by delivering unmatched transparency, efficiency, safety, and control far surpassing the , manual, and unreliable systems that existed before.

**Operational Excellence**

By combining proprietary technology with an owned fleet and employed drivers, Bluebird ensures cost-effective, reliable, and fully managed transport services. Key operational benefits include:

- High-occupancy route optimization, reducing transport costs per passenger while improving efficiency.
- Fully automated scheduling, replacing manual planning and reducing administrative workload.
- Elimination of client-managed transport, freeing internal resources for strategic tasks.
- Automated reporting, offering real-time visibility into operations and workforce attendance.
- Passenger cost management, enabling accurate budgeting and cost allocation per employee, campaign, or site.

### **Advanced Reporting & Insights**

Clients gain instant, actionable intelligence through comprehensive dashboards, including:

- On-time arrivals and departures, late arrivals, and operational exceptions.
- Scheduled vs. actual passenger numbers and no-show tracking.
- Cost-per-passenger, cost-per-campaign, and scheduled vs. actual passenger cost analysis.
- Cost-per-site location, enabling precise financial management and operational decision-making.

### **Enhanced Safety**

Bluebird's solution prioritizes employee safety through a combination of technology and active monitoring:

- AI-enabled dashboard cameras and real-time driver performance monitoring.
- Live GPS tracking for every vehicle, ensuring route compliance.
- Dedicated security teams for high-risk routes.
- 24-hour control room, managing incidents and responding immediately to operational issues.

### **User Convenience**

Employees experience a seamless, user-friendly transport service that integrates directly with their work schedules:

- Easy booking and cancellation via mobile or web applications.
- Alignment of transport schedules with workforce shifts.
- Direct engagement with the Bluebird control room for support.
- Real-time vehicle tracking and arrival notifications.
- Feedback mechanisms for service improvement.

All passenger and operational data are securely managed in compliance with **POPI regulations**, giving clients confidence in data privacy and governance.

By combining automated efficiency, real-time insights, enhanced safety, and user convenience, Bluebird transforms staff transport from a logistical burden into a strategic enabler of business performance, workforce reliability, and operational transparency.

## **Outcome: Improved Business Environment**

### **i. How was the solution made available?**

The solution was primarily adopted through word-of-mouth referrals, driven by Bluebird's strong reputation for service excellence to support clients and to ensure that we provided smarter solutions to manage their staff transport. It was further expanded through partnerships with key industry bodies such as:

- CapeBPO
- BPESA

### . c. How did businesses access and receive the solution?

Bluebird makes accessing its staff transport solution seamless for both clients and employees through **user-friendly mobile and web applications**. Employees can easily download the app from the App Store or access the platform via the web, allowing them to book, cancel, and track transport with convenience.

Recognizing the unique challenges of the South African market, Bluebird goes beyond digital access by deploying **dedicated support teams directly into client organizations**. These teams ensure a smooth rollout and adoption of the solution by:

- Onboarding businesses, setting up the platform to reflect each client's operational needs.
- Training HR teams and transport coordinators, ensuring internal teams understand how to manage schedules, track employees, and utilize reporting features effectively.
- Providing ongoing operational support, resolving issues in real-time and maintaining high service reliability.
- Conducting roadshows, engaging employees directly to encourage adoption and answer questions.
- Collaborating on workforce planning, verifying employee details and ensuring accurate onboarding to maximize route efficiency and minimize errors.

This combination of intuitive technology and hands-on, local support ensures that businesses can fully leverage Bluebird's capabilities from day one. It guarantees accurate, safe, and reliable transport for employees while giving management complete visibility and control over operations.

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## Impact: Beneficiaries and Improvements

### a. Target Business Groups

The innovation serves a diverse range of business sectors, including the BPO (call center) sector, hospitality industry, quick-service (fast food) industry, manufacturing sector, as well as retail and corporate environments. These industries typically operate across extended hours, shift-based schedules, and high employee volumes, making reliable and efficient staff transport a critical operational requirement.

Bluebird staff transport solutions significantly enhance the employee and client experience by providing safe, reliable, and punctual transportation services. For clients, this translates into improved workforce attendance, reduced lateness, and increased productivity, particularly in operations that depend on strict shift adherence. By removing transportation barriers, employees are more likely to arrive on time, feel secure during their commute, and remain engaged and satisfied in their roles. In addition, Bluebird's technology driven approach such as route optimization, real-time tracking, and data reporting enables businesses to gain greater visibility and control over their transport operations. This leads to cost efficiencies, better planning, and improved compliance with safety and labour standards. Clients also benefit from reduced administrative burden, as transport logistics are streamlined and managed centrally.

For employees, the improvements are equally impactful. Access to dependable transport enhances job accessibility, particularly for those working early morning or late-night shifts when public transport options are limited. This contributes to higher staff retention, improved morale, and a stronger employer brand for client organizations.

Overall, Bluebird's solution delivers measurable value by aligning operational efficiency with employee wellbeing, ultimately supporting business continuity, service quality, and long-term growth across all targeted sector

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### b. Adoption

The Bluebird staff transport solution has achieved strong adoption across multiple sectors, particularly in industries with shift-based operations and high workforce volumes. Organizations increasingly view staff transport as a critical enabler of operational efficiency, employee reliability, and duty of care.

The solution is used by a wide range of major international and local organizations, demonstrating its scalability and cross-sector relevance.

- **BPO Clients:**
  - EXL
  - Concentrix
  - Foundever
  - Sigma
  - IGT
  - Telus
  - CCI
- **Other Sectors:**
  - GrandWest
  - Sun International
  - InterContinental Hotel
  - Steers
  - EatFresh
  - Bidvest
- **Additional Clients:**
  - SD Recruitment
  - Parliament of Cape Town

Adoption has been driven by the need for reliable, safe, and technology-enabled transport that supports workforce productivity and reduces absenteeism. Bluebird's ability to provide route optimization, real-time tracking, and scalable transport solutions has made it a trusted partner for both large enterprises and growing businesses. As a result, the service continues to expand across sectors, reinforcing its role as a strategic component of modern workforce management

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#### **d. What did this solution help businesses improve?**

The implementation of the Bluebird staff transport solution has delivered significant operational, financial, and workforce management improvements for client organizations. Prior to adoption, many businesses relied on manual, spreadsheet-based planning with limited visibility into where employees were located, how routes were structured, and whether transport services were being used efficiently. This often resulted in inconsistent service delivery, higher costs, and limited accountability.

Bluebird has transformed this environment by digitizing and optimizing the entire staff transport process. The solution eliminated manual planning by introducing automated route optimization based on accurate employee location data. This not only improved route efficiency but also enabled businesses to better understand where their workforce is geographically concentrated, allowing for smarter hiring decisions and more strategic workforce planning.

A key improvement has been the ability to ensure consistent, on-time workforce arrival an essential requirement for industries operating under strict service level agreements (SLAs), particularly in the BPO and hospitality sectors. Reliable transport has reduced lateness and absenteeism, directly improving productivity, service delivery, and client satisfaction.

In addition, Bluebird provides real-time tracking and reporting capabilities that give businesses full visibility into daily operations. Clients can monitor no-shows, late arrivals, and operational exceptions, allowing for proactive issue resolution and improved workforce accountability. This level of insight also supports better management of transport misuse or abuse, ensuring that services are used appropriately and costs are controlled.

From a financial perspective, the solution enables accurate cost allocation across internal departments, campaigns, or business units. This transparency allows organizations to track transport spend more effectively, optimize budgets, and align costs with actual usage.

Importantly, Bluebird has also strengthened business continuity. During periods of disruption such as taxi strikes, protests, or public transport instability clients have been able to maintain operations with minimal impact. The reliability and control provided by the solution ensure that staff can still access the workplace safely and on time, even under challenging conditions.

Overall, Bluebird has shifted staff transport from a disconnected service, into a structured, data-driven system that improves efficiency, accountability, cost management, and operational resilience across client businesses.

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### **e. Business Performance Improvements**

Bluebird staff transport delivers measurable business performance improvements by transforming workforce mobility from a reactive necessity into a strategic advantage.

**Lower Costs:** Automated route optimization significantly reduces transport expenses, with clients experiencing cost savings of up to 50% per passenger. By eliminating inefficient routes, consolidating trips, and leveraging accurate location and usage data, businesses can redirect savings into other operational priorities.

**Increased Investment & Exports:** For BPOs and other service-oriented sectors, predictable and controllable transport costs enable confident scaling and engagement with international clients. Organizations can expand operations, take on larger contracts, and maintain strict SLAs without worrying about workforce reliability or hidden transport costs.

**Increased Employment:** Reliable and safe transport directly enhances employee satisfaction, punctuality, and retention. This allows clients to attract a broader talent pool, including employees who previously could not access work due to transport barriers. As a result, businesses can sustain higher staffing levels and drive job creation while maintaining operational efficiency. By ensuring workforce reliability, controlling costs, and supporting scalable growth, Bluebird enables clients to improve operational performance, strengthen service delivery, and achieve long-term strategic goals. The solution not only optimizes transport but also becomes a key enabler of business growth and competitiveness across sectors

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### **j. Longevity: Sustainability of Impact**

Since its establishment in 2014, Bluebird has consistently focused on delivering reliable, safe, and efficient staff transport while shaping the industry through innovation and forward-thinking solutions. Our long-standing presence demonstrates both operational expertise and a proven ability to adapt to evolving client needs.

#### **What ensures long-term viability?**

Bluebird's sustainability is underpinned by its 100% ownership model, which eliminates:

- Third-party software licensing costs
- Dependence on outsourced transport providers

This ownership gives Bluebird full control over pricing, service quality, and scalability, ensuring clients receive consistent, high-standard transport solutions without compromise.

To secure long-term viability over the next 10+ years, Bluebird is actively pursuing initiatives that balance operational efficiency, cost management, and environmental responsibility:

- Exploring LPG fuel alternatives to reduce exposure to fuel price volatility, providing clients with more predictable transport costs.
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- Rolling out South Africa's first fully electric BPO transport fleet by 2026, demonstrating commitment to sustainable innovation.

These initiatives will:

- Stabilize operating costs for clients and reduce exposure to fuel market fluctuations
- Minimize environmental impact and contribute to national carbon reduction goals
- Enable clients to meet sustainability targets by lowering their corporate carbon footprint

By combining operational control, innovative technology, and sustainable transport solutions, Bluebird ensures its services remain reliable, scalable, and future-ready allowing clients to benefit from a trusted partner that can support growth and workforce mobility for decades to come.

### 3. Declaration of Evidence to verify the results chain

What supporting evidence can you provide to verify that the results stated above are as stated?

Below are videos of testimonials of clients including an overview of Bluebird support structures to the BPO sector which is one of the largest job creators in the Western Cape:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dutbP8cfyZWndAjTefP-rU2OABt3ekBO/view?usp=sharing>

Bluebird won the Top Support Service Provider at the Cape BPO Awards:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xfHUp9NkGhOohyp9AUCi87Yz124jxh4\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xfHUp9NkGhOohyp9AUCi87Yz124jxh4_/view?usp=sharing)

Bluebird won the Top Support Service Provider at the BPESA Awards:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17iQHfPfpwjPQrypeFkEFnaL5zLZZv5F4/view?usp=sharing>

### 4. Select the best category of award for this innovation

Sector	Award	Mark with "X"
<b>Private Sector</b>	6 x Catalytic innovations that contribute to growth	X
	1 x Provincial- or National-government systemic innovation most impactful on economic growth	
<b>Public Sector</b>	1 x Local & District Municipal innovation that is impactful on growth of their local economy	
	1 x Public-sector innovation, enhancing good governance	
<b>Safety &amp; Security</b>	1 x Innovation enhancing safety & security	X
<b>Labour Market</b>	1 x Labour market efficacy award Reducing impediments to increased employment	
	1 x Research the most impactful on competitiveness of Industry	
<b>Academia</b>	1 x Tertiary education best aligned to Industry / market needs	
	1 x Most successful start-up / spin-out	
	1 x Entrepreneurship development in higher education	
<b>Industry Sector Bodies</b>	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their Industry	
<b>Organised Business</b>	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their business precincts	

5. Check that you completed all that is necessary.

6. Submit this documented and/or video-recorded to [innovation@capechamber.co.za](mailto:innovation@capechamber.co.za).

Thank you for helping us discover and celebrate the champions shaping a better WC economy!