



The Brief

Brompton design and manufacture their iconic folding bicycles in North London. To take the brand to more people they decided to create a smart bike hire scheme.

Working alongside Brompton's fabricators and web development team, Graphite were asked to develop the electronics and software to operate and manage the hire "docks".

The Challenge

Graphite had to design a bespoke Linux based controller and modem with ultra-low power consumption to reflect the fact that most docks run off solar power.

As well as the controller, we developed the system for identifying in which dock and bay each individual bike is located in throughout the UK.

The hire scheme member simply inputs their reservation code into the dock using the keypad and colour LED screen – which will even show how to unfold the bike - and this will open the door and turn on the light in the bay where the bike is located.

The bike is hired by the day for any length of time and can be safely returned to any dock in the UK.



The Result

After successful trials, Brompton are rolling out their hi-tech docks in cities across the country - and people are enjoying the freedom and convenience of hiring these folding bikes with nothing more complicated than a reservation code that they receive by SMS.

As well as being uber-cool and great to ride, when you arrive at your destination you simply fold the bike up and put it under your desk or take it into the café with you or carry it on the train.

Getting around town couldn't be easier than with a Brompton.

Graphite have been delighted to help Brompton develop their dock and If you would like to find out more details as to how we achieved this, or if you have a similar project that you think we can help you with then please get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

