



Meridian Outdoor  
Self-Service  
Solution:

Opus  
Inspection:  
Self-Service  
Emissions  
Testing





# Self-Service Emissions Testing

**M**ore than half of U.S. states require drivers to complete annual auto-emissions tests. Given the number and frequency of these tests, Opus Inspection saw a need to streamline the process and enlisted the help of Meridian to create a more convenient solution for drivers.

## The Challenge

Maryland performs roughly two million auto-emissions tests each year as part of their growing efforts to clean air and reduce carbon emissions. These tests check the levels of hazardous materials released from a vehicle. The goal of mandated testing is to decrease the amount of pollutants that are harmful to the environment and, consequently, to improve air quality.

In order to encourage drivers to complete required testing, states are faced with the challenge of making the test convenient for drivers. Jim Valerio, General Manager at Envirotest described the need for an efficient solution this way: "Traditionally, the lines for these tests have been very long with over an hour wait time. Consumer driven demand is what led us to innovate; the market was really demanding a more convenient process."

In response, Opus Inspection sought to create a solution for drivers who were unable to visit stations during typical business hours.

## The Solution

Opus Inspection partnered with Meridian to create an outdoor solution that could withstand weather in a variety of climates. The new emissions-testing



## About the Client

*Opus Inspection is the leader of vehicle emissions testing equipment and services. With its subsidiary Envirotest, Opus Inspection works to safeguard public health by providing equipment that reduces smog and improves air quality.*

kiosks would be able to perform the same test as technicians at fullservice stations but do so at unattended, selfservice kiosks, providing a new convenience for drivers. "The solution is just robust, elegant and quite frankly, reliable," said Valerio.

Similar to self-checkout at a grocery store, drivers scan a barcode on their emissions notice at the kiosk and pay the inspection fee with a credit card. Then, using a test device located in a small compartment underneath the screen, they are able to plug into the vehicle's computer diagnostic system. The device tests whether the engine is working properly and if the vehicle's emissions are meeting the state's environmental standards. Users are alerted on the kiosk interface when the test is completed, prompted to remove the device and return it to the compartment; they can then retrieve the printed receipt as proof of completing the emissions test and be on their way. The entire process takes five to 10 minutes.

## The Results

Meridian worked with Opus Inspection to deploy 16 pilot kiosks throughout the state of Ohio. In August 2015, after the success in Ohio, Maryland's Motor Vehicle Administration initiated a program to deploy two self-service kiosks, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at the Glen Burnie VEIP station and the Gaithersburg MVA branch office.



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Jim Valerio - Opus Inspection

According to the MVA, the two original kiosks have performed more than 2,300 tests, with a customer satisfaction rating of 90-percent. Nine months after the initial deployment, Maryland's MVA has expanded the program to seven new stations. Drivers will now be able to perform their own vehicle emissions tests at Meridian self-service kiosks located at the Bel Air, Beltsville, Frederick and Waldorf MVA branch offices, and at the Annapolis, Edgewood and Owings Mills VEIP stations.

Opus Inspection is currently working on expanding its emissions-testing kiosk initiative to Nevada, Delaware, Washington DC and Virginia.





**Corporate Headquarters**

312 S. Pine Street  
Aberdeen, NC 28315  
+1 866-454-6757  
sales@meridiankiosks.com

[meridiankiosks.com](http://meridiankiosks.com)

