

New traffic management system released by Siemens

The latest version of Comet, the advanced traffic management and information system from Siemens, has been upgraded and released by the company. The new software release of Siemens' UTMC common database solution incorporates several additional key features including an innovative Strategy Manager, unequalled elsewhere on the market.

According to the company's Systems Marketing Manager, Mark Bodger, the latest version of Siemens' Comet represents a quantum leap from the previous version. 'Comet's scalable, modular design has always allowed a customisable solution from a common set of software building blocks to provide the optimum implementation. With the new Strategy Manager, the automatic conversion of any existing strategies into two states streamlines the upgrade and evolution process,' he said.

Signalling an entirely new approach, the key features of the new Comet Strategy Manager include visual 'drag & drop' configuration of multiple states and triggers as well as enhanced triggers for automated strategies, fault status and critical equipment with visual testing and monitoring of triggers. Configuration now makes extensive use of flow charts and simple drop-down menus with easy analysis of why changes occur. The latest software release also provides users with upgrades to the latest UTMC standards, an email adapter for incident and event notification to external users and additional adapters for linking non-UTMC systems data into Comet.

Further new features include the latest UTMC standards interfacing for Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras and system based classification for Journey Time Monitoring to support multiple camera suppliers. The new software functionality has also been designed using the agile method incorporating continuous feedback from customers and engineers.

Engaging the customer in both test and development sprints enables a succession of outputs to be presented to customers and small updates to be released more quickly on a regular basis.

Supporting the company's approach, Peter Jones, ITS Manager – Development & Innovation, representing 2020 Liverpool Limited stated: 'it's a giant leap forward in customer satisfaction. It's highly rewarding to be working so closely with Siemens to accelerate the development and delivery of improvements to Comet and in turn continue to enhance the management of the road network in Liverpool.'

Comet, the advanced traffic management and information system from Siemens, is the key component of a modern integrated traffic control centre. Using the latest UTMC standards, Comet easily integrates information from a wide range of systems into a single, seamless view of the current network situation with strategic management and control. The use of common software modules, in conjunction with an active user forum, provides a reliable solution which can expand as needs change in the future. Comet users benefit from a regular programme of software releases to provide new and enhanced features. Using a Comet system allows traffic managers and operators to control and monitor their urban networks more easily, while delivering meaningful, timely and accurate information to the travelling public.

Notes to Editors

About Siemens in the UK

Siemens was established in the United Kingdom 168 years ago and now employs around 16,000 people in the UK. Last year's revenues were £4.1 billion. As a leading global engineering and technology services company, Siemens provides innovative solutions to help tackle the world's major challenges, across the key sectors of energy, industry and healthcare. Siemens has offices and factories throughout the UK, with its headquarters in Frimley, Surrey. The company's global headquarters is in Munich, Germany. For more information, visit www.siemens.co.uk

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