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Siemens strikes gold with Highways Agency

A new 3-year development contract aimed at reducing accidents, improving traffic flow and managing congestion on Britain's motorways has been awarded to Siemens by the Highways Agency. The project to develop the next generation of the Highways Agency's Motorway Incident Detection and Automatic Signalling (MIDAS) outstation will provide powerful and accurate incident detection, and improved system communications using secure internet-based protocols.

MIDAS is a key traffic management tool, helping to keep network operators fully informed of traffic conditions by processing information from roadside detectors monitoring variances in traffic flow by assessing speed, lane occupancy, and vehicle headway. Commenting on the contract award, Siemens Traffic Controls' David Grant said: "MIDAS is instrumental in helping to improve the safety of both drivers and passengers travelling on Britain's motorway network. The system raises an alarm if the flow breakdown is reached, enabling reduced speed and warning messages or diversion plans to be activated.' he said.

Importantly, the new MIDAS system will allow the Highways Agency to ensure all equipment is compatible with the established communications network particularly IP based interfaces. Siemens will work closely with the Highways Agency to complete the new design by the end of the year, with the manufacture and delivery of the outstation units beginning in 2007.

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More Atlas units on order

More recently, a further contract has been placed with the company for the supply of 250 matrix indicators, which brings the total number ordered from Siemens by the Highways Agency to over 1,000 units in the past 24 months. Using LED technology, the Atlas signals display warning information including advisory speed limits, fog and other restrictions ahead, managed by the network of police control offices located throughout the country. At just 13 kilos (almost 7 kilos less than the maximum weight specified by the Highways Agency), the signals are easier to install on the central 'rural' posts and motorway gantries where they are located, helping to improve safety on around 3,000km of motorway for both contractors and motorists.

The national contracts have been awarded to Siemens by the Highways Agency as network operator of the trunk roads and motorways in England on behalf of the Department for Transport. Siemens has extensive experience around the world in the design, manufacture and supply of motorway systems. In the UK, Siemens has developed a wide range of communications equipment and systems including signalling, signing, incident detection and emergency telephones.

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About Siemens Traffic Controls

As part of the Siemens Industrial Solutions and Services (I&S) group, Siemens Traffic Controls designs, manufactures, installs and maintains a wide range of traffic engineering products and systems to enhance road safety and improve traffic flow in congested urban and inter-urban areas. In the United Kingdom, the company installs and maintains more traffic infrastructure than any other company and has 700 employees including 350 skilled service engineers dedicated every day of the year to maintaining over half of all traffic control equipment installed on the UK road network. The Siemens Industrial Solutions and Services Group (I&S) is an integrator of systems and solutions for industrial and infrastructure facilities, and global service provider for the plant and projects business covering planning, installation, operation and the entire life cycle.

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About Siemens in the UK

Siemens was established in the United Kingdom 162 years ago. The company employs 21,122 people in the UK, including about 5,000 in the manufacturing sector. Last year's revenues were £3 billion, including exports of £500 million. Siemens provides innovative, high-quality services and solutions to customers in a diverse range of industry sectors, including power, automation and control, information and communication, medical, transportation, lighting, and household. Siemens has offices and factories throughout the UK, with its headquarters in Bracknell, Berkshire. The company's global headquarters is in Munich, Germany. For more information, visit www.siemens.co.uk

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