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Siemens extends ‘caring hands’ to help disabled drivers

A replacement pedestrian controller and crossing system has been funded and installed by Siemens to help disabled people gain valuable road experience when learning to drive at the Queen Elizabeth’s Foundation Mobility Centre in Carshalton, Surrey. As part of the company’s ‘Caring Hands’ programme, the refurbishment project was coordinated by Siemens Traffic Controls with the help of Roadtech Cutting Services and with the support of Surrey County Council Intelligent Transport Systems.

The new equipment includes the latest push buttons incorporating audible and tactile indicators, a key benefit when training mentally and physically disabled people to use wheelchairs (powered and manual) and specially adapted cars. On behalf of Siemens Traffic, Mike Jackson said: ‘As an organisation committed to corporate responsibility and supporting projects in the community, we take a very positive approach towards citizenship initiatives and helping disadvantaged people. By supplying a modern pedestrian crossing to the Queen Elizabeth’s Foundation Mobility Centre, the training experience can accurately reflect ‘real-life’ and help increase the level of road safety awareness for disabled people training at the centre’.

For the Queen Elizabeth’s Foundation Mobility Centre, Operations Manager Sal Grier commented: ‘Mobility is essential to all our lives, but most particularly to people with a disability. With new equipment of this kind in the controlled surroundings of the centre, we can prepare our clients with the experience and solutions to deal with live traffic situations safely’.

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'We appreciate the support of all those involved, the new equipment and associated works helps and contributes to our aims to extend the work of the Centre, providing impartial advice and professional tuition, to ensure that individuals' needs are met and the best mobility solutions are found.'

Helping over one million people cross the road in safety, the company's ST700P flagship controller is recognised throughout the UK as the most reliable pedestrian controller, providing a high level of safety control and supporting all UK approved crossing strategies.

The company's extensive 'Caring Hands' programme concentrates on projects in the field of education, healthcare, water and energy. The primary focus is citizenship initiatives aimed at advancing and integrating disadvantaged segments of the community, giving people the kind of support that encourages them to help themselves. The company also takes a special interest in working to improve children's situations and to safeguard their welfare.

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Mobility Centre provides training programmes, a telephone information service, assessments and tuition for disabled people who wish to learn to drive, or are uncertain about the type of car adaptations required or wish to resume driving, for those with a change of circumstance, such as following a stroke or an accident.

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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.

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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