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## Siemens upgrades UTMC system

Developed by Siemens Traffic to support all UTMC systems, Comet, the company's latest generation of traffic management and information system, is now available with a sophisticated digital mapping function, providing new features and more dynamic, user-friendly displays. Demonstrating its ongoing commitment to open standard communication and Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) systems, the company has now introduced GIS (Geographical Information System) digital mapping to add more functionality and further enhance the proven facilities offered by Comet.

The use of a UTMC common database such as Comet allows the integration of data from a range of disparate sources into a single consistent overview of the network. GIS displays allow the network status to be displayed in a number of different forms, ranging from a complete city to a small district as desired by the operator. It also addresses the needs of all stakeholders by providing customised data displays for efficient information dissemination and analysis.

### Automatic network monitoring

Using Comet, integrated network monitoring is carried out automatically, comparing the current performance with the expected performance for a particular time of day. This takes into account variables such as school holidays, based upon continual historic profiling. This means that operators only have abnormalities highlighted for action, reducing the amount of unnecessary time spent monitoring normal day-to-day operation.

According to the company's Systems Marketing Manager – Mark Bodger, Comet already delivers accurate, real-time information, enabling traffic managers to control and monitor their urban networks across a range of UTMC systems more easily. 'This reliable, flexible and expandable system builds on the solid foundation of the UTMC common database. This enables Comet to offer the advantage of a wide array of applications that add value and combine data from previously stand-alone systems,' he said.

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### **User interface**

Comet provides user interface access via a dedicated GIS application installed on the client machine. The digital map display provides a complete view of the current network situation combining the information from all connected sub-systems in a single unified presentation.

### **An integrated approach**

The cornerstone of the Comet system is a UTMC common database, both for simplicity of interfacing with existing IT systems and its proven ability to handle the largest database applications with ease. The database has been structured to support all of the Comet applications together with remote access from other UTMC sub-systems.

The UTMC database provides the ability to respond manually, or automatically, to incidents with a range of commands to any connected system. Commands are actioned immediately or with appropriate time delays, providing a coordinated, consistent response to any incident across all systems with the minimum of operator involvement – allowing operators to manage the network rather than manage the systems.

Mark Bodger added, 'With Comet's intelligent technology enhanced by GIS digital mapping and supported by a UTMC common database, Comet can continue to reduce the workload for traffic operators whilst giving drivers better travel information, having a positive impact on traffic management across Britain for years to come.'

### **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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