

September 2006

Liverpool selects traffic solutions from Siemens

A project to develop an Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) system to help manage congestion, provide highway network control and to avoid the need for future infrastructure schemes in Liverpool has been awarded to Siemens Traffic. The project forms part of the Liverpool City Centre Movement Strategy (CCMS), a £73 million programme of works aimed at improving roads, streets and public spaces, and the city's vision to make Liverpool modern, cosmopolitan and the European Capital of Culture 2008.

The new system includes Siemens' Comet UTMC traffic management and information system which will enable the authority to combine the data generated by its remote monitoring and urban traffic control systems, and will provide traffic managers with a better overview of traffic situations and enable them to automate responses to manage and alleviate congestion.

Siemens' technology addresses a key part of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) written by partners Merseytravel, and the five Merseyside local authorities Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral. The 2006 – 2011 LTP will provide £200 million of investment in new infrastructure and improved services, providing Merseyside with a safer, greener, more efficient and accessible transport network. The project includes the supply, and installation of 36 variable message signs (VMS) which have already started to operate in 17 locations in the centre of Liverpool, with 19 more being installed further afield, including in Wirral and on the M62.

The signs provide motorists with information about road conditions, accidents and unusual congestion with the aim of moving traffic to more appropriate routes. The information will be updated regularly by 2020 Liverpool, the city council-Mouchel Parkman partnership. The first messages appeared on city centre signs to direct motorists to use the Wallasey Tunnel to get to this year's Open Golf Championships at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, Wirral.

Commenting on the initiative, John Morley, 2020 Liverpool's project manager, said: 'The new signs are all located at key decision points on busy roads and the new system gives us the ability to continuously monitor and manage the road network. The technology from Siemens is enabling us to get information out to motorists on the road promptly, helping them to reach their destinations as quickly and as safely as possible.'

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Siemens' VMS are increasingly being used to provide drivers with information of the road conditions ahead, and can be applied to both expressway and urban road networks. Siemens has installed several hundred complete signs across the UK and around the world and, in addition, can supply character modules to upgrade existing flat plate signs where appropriate.

According to Siemens Systems Marketing Manager, Mark Bodger, the introduction of UTMC systems and equipment has led to improved traffic management. He said: 'Providing traffic information in real-time and offering alternative routes leads to a reduction in congestion, lessening driver frustration and leading to smoother traffic flow. We're very pleased to be supplying technology to this rapidly developing city and look forward to helping the Council and its partners to reduce congestion in Liverpool.'

Liverpool is investing more than £3bn over the next decade in the renewal of its infrastructure and the regeneration of its community. In 2007, the city will celebrate its 800th anniversary and in 2008 will become European Capital of Culture.

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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