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Warwickshire first to use Siemens through Catalyst

A new contract to extend car park guidance and supply variable message signs (VMS) in Warwickshire has been placed with Siemens Traffic Controls, the first of its kind to be awarded to the company using the Catalyst: a pre-tendered procurement arrangement for the public sector that can be accessed online. Based on the proven Siespace car park guidance and VMS management system already in place in the Stratford area, the contract includes monitoring 10 car parks in Leamington Spa and Warwick and the supply of a further 8 variable message signs.

According to Gafoor Din, Team Leader for Traffic Control and Information Systems representing Warwickshire County Council, the buying solutions' framework agreement helped guarantee that quality and service levels and ensured 'best value' was offered by all of the approved suppliers invited to tender for the contract. 'Using Catalyst also helped save time and money and ensure good overall performance and price', he said.

Building on existing technology, the new equipment will provide drivers visiting both town centres with real-time information on car park availability. This will ensure that finding a suitable parking space is easier as well as reducing congestion on all roads. "The information provided by the new equipment will minimise circulating traffic and reduce journey times by providing motorists with details of the best car parks with available spaces, quickly and efficiently", added Gafoor Din.

Two different VMS designs will be used in Warwickshire. The standard car park signs proposed for Leamington Spa will show the number of spaces available in various car parks within the town centre. These signs will allow drivers to pre-select the car park they wish to park in, based on the number of spaces available.

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The directive car park signs proposed for Warwick will show in fixed text the visitors proposed destination, i.e. the Town Centre, Castle and Racecourse and in variable text it will provide directive information to drivers on the name of the best car park for their visit.

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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