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Siemens technology selected for world's largest Low Emission Zone in London
Proven traffic monitoring equipment from Siemens Traffic Controls will be used by Transport for London (TfL) as part of the introduction of a London-wide Low Emission Zone (LEZ), the first of its kind in the UK and the largest in the world. The scheme, due to be launched in February 2008, aims to discourage the use of the most polluting lorries, coaches and buses to improve air quality and health across the capital.

Siemens Traffic Controls will supply, install and operate the system, which involves the installation of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras at 75 different sites around London. The cameras will capture details of an estimated four million number plates every day, enabling TfL to identify those vehicles producing emissions in excess of the LEZ emissions standards. Installation of the first tranche of 60 sites is well underway and is expected to be completed by October 2007. In advance of next year's launch, TfL is actively informing vehicle operators of the LEZ requirements.

According to Siemens Traffic Controls' Managing Director Gordon Wakeford, the technology is similar to the Siemens equipment that has been deployed for the western extension of TfL's central London congestion charging scheme. "The cameras and local equipment will capture and process vehicle number plate information at the roadside. The installation will utilise the DVLA database and other sources of information to identify a vehicle's emissions standards."

The latest government figures show that roadside air pollution in London has been on the rise for the last two years. According to Transport for London, the Low Emission Zone will encourage operators to clean up their vehicle fleets by either replacing or modifying older diesel-engine vehicles that do not meet the LEZ emissions standards. Operators of the largest vehicles that do not comply with the standards will have to pay a £200 daily charge to drive these vehicles within the zone. In order to maximise improvements in air quality and health benefits the Low Emission Zone will cover the vast majority of Greater London and operate 24 hours a day, every day of year.

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Nick Fairholme, Head of the London Low Emission Zone said, "London has the worst air pollution in the UK and amongst the worst in Europe, and a recent survey of Londoners found that 72 per cent of them are worried about pollution from traffic exhaust fumes.

The London-wide Low Emission Zone will be the largest of its kind in the world and the reduced PM₁₀ emissions will improve the quality of life for many thousands of people who live in, work in and visit London."

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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