

08 October 2007

## 15 year ROMANSE blossoms with Siemens

**Siemens Traffic Controls and the Southampton ROMANSE Traffic and Travel Information Centre are celebrating 15 years of working in partnership.**

Commencing in 1992 as a pilot scheme to develop a flexible solution to combat increasing congestion, ROMANSE aimed to make better use of existing infrastructure and resources to provide a sustainable economic and social transport system in the Southampton area. By utilising intelligent transport systems (ITS), ROMANSE would utilise leading edge traffic control technology to provide accurate, timely and accessible information both before and during journeys to allow informed choices about route, time of journey and methods of public transport available.

Extended as a partnership between Hampshire County Council and Southampton City Council, ROMANSE partnered with Siemens at an early stage to develop and implement ITS technology, together with Southampton University. Martin Wylie, Traffic Signals Engineer for Southampton City Council said: 'by having Siemens on board from the outset, Southampton were able to work with them as well as researchers from the University to develop traffic management solutions that we rely on today'.

At the heart of the three ROMANSE control rooms located in Southampton, Winchester and Portsmouth is the Siemens COMET urban traffic management and control (UTMC) system, gathering information from sources such as car parks, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras measuring journey times and SCOOT – the urban traffic control system optimising the traffic signals. COMET then disseminates the information to the public via variable message signs (VMS) utilising SIESPACE, radio travel news and via the internet using EMERGE. Many of the Siemens systems in place in Southampton were developed as part of the European Commission funded ROMANSE project to deliver traffic and travel information and control, in a coherent and integrated manner across the region.

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Whilst on a visit to the ROMANSE control room at Southampton, Gordon Wakeford, Managing Director of Siemens Traffic Controls said, 'to be able to contribute towards this project from the beginning has been a great opportunity for us. By building this close relationship, we have not only been able to develop new technologies that we now successfully sell worldwide but also deliver real solutions to the aims of the ROMANSE project. We hope to continue to support them for the next 15 years and beyond'.

### **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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