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### **Siemens unveils modular urban traffic management and control system**

**Underlining its ongoing commitment to open standard communication and Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) systems, Siemens has developed an advanced traffic management and information system with a scalable, modular design. The company's latest generation of Comet integrates systems and information from a wide range of suppliers in a system that is totally modular with upgradeable components.**

According to the company's Systems Product Marketing Manager, Mark Bodger, the use of a Comet UTMC system allows traffic managers and operators to control and monitor their urban networks more easily, while at the same time delivering meaningful, timely and accurate information to the travelling public. 'Comet is the key component of a modern integrated traffic control centre that ensures the effective management of traffic flow through towns and cities in the UK and around the world', he said.

Developed in conjunction with local authorities to ensure that user requirements are addressed, Comet meets the actual day-to-day challenges and changing needs of traffic managers. The system's ongoing development is facilitated through a dedicated user group, and this combined with Siemens' extensive knowledge of real time traffic management and control systems, such as SCOOT, has resulted in a reliable, flexible and expandable system.

The company has recently introduced GIS digital mapping as standard to add more functionality and further enhance the proven facilities offered by Comet, as well as additional components for car park guidance, accurate journey time information using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology and VMS management. Network monitoring, incident and event management, and strategic control for consistent, repeatable traffic management and control can also be incorporated to further enhance functionality.

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With internet services supporting journey planning and information publication, together with integration with other authorities and network managers, Mark Bodger adds: 'The scalable, modular design of the Comet system allows users to invest in a system initially addressing a particular need, whilst allowing future expansion as requirements change and evolve. In this way it is possible to invest for the future now, maximising the benefits that Comet can provide to address the needs of traffic management within the UTMC environment'.

Siemens has been involved in the development of UTMC since its inception and the heart of the Comet system is a UTMC common database using MS SQL server, both for simplicity of interfacing with existing IT systems and its proven ability to handle the largest database applications with ease. The system is structured to support all of the Comet application modules individually or combined, together with integration of other systems, both UTMC and legacy, to meet the unique requirements of each network.

The use of a powerful GIS map display provides a complete visualisation of the current network situation combining the information from all connected sub-systems in a single unified presentation providing an unparalleled view of the current network status. Users can also interface with, and operate the system in a variety of locations, at any time offering a more flexible approach to dealing with planned and unplanned incidents and events.

### **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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