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## Siemens links Comet to journey and network monitoring

Siemens Traffic's market leading Comet UTMC system, an advanced traffic management and information system with a scalable, modular design has been further developed to include the complete integration of journey time monitoring (JTMS). Linking directly to ANPR cameras, the company's latest generation of Comet now includes the ability to monitor the network performance and enhance the integration of urban traffic management information.

According to the company's Systems Marketing Manager, Mark Bodger, the information generated by using the new Comet UTMC system allows network managers to monitor long term trends in network performance more easily, and the data can be used by operators to improve day-to-day network management. 'The enhanced JTMS module also includes the ability to create and update Origin-Destination matrices within the system to provide the ability for accurate modelling of traffic flow patterns and providing information to microsimulation tools', he said.

Additionally, the release of a new tool within Comet allows detailed reporting and analysis of data stored within the UTMC database. Network journey times, car park usage and congestion levels are just some of the parameters which can be analysed in real time, as well as modelled against baseline performance levels for trend analysis of overall network performance.

Comet remains 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. 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.

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With the Comet user group meeting twice a year, system developments are constantly being planned as a result of customer feedback, and are made available to all supported Comet customers. Last year, the company 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 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.

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'.

### **About Siemens Traffic Controls**

As a division of Siemens plc, 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 over 800 employees including around 400 skilled service engineers dedicated every day of the year to maintaining over half of all traffic control equipment installed on the UK road network.

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