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Siemens extends family of ELV controllers

Following the highly successful introduction of Siemens' Extra Low Voltage (ELV) intersection controller and rapid growth of ST900 ELV installations, the company has now launched an ELV pedestrian controller. Enabling the implementation of a total ELV policy for all new sites, the new ST750P pedestrian family is certified to TR2500 and provides Pelican, Puffin and Toucan control strategies at both low voltage (230V) and extra-low voltage (48V) drive levels.

According to Keith Manston, Siemens' Head of Product Management, the new ST750P family is closely related to the acclaimed ST900 range of high performance traffic controllers and optimised for pedestrian control. 'Not surprisingly, the new ST750P family is also compatible with the whole range of Siemens street furniture, including Helios LED signals, LED nearside signals and LED wait indicators, all offering significant power cost savings over conventional solutions' he said.

'Significantly, the use of ELV provides reduced power and cabling costs as well as improved lamp monitoring of very low power LED traffic and pedestrian signals. ELV also provides increased electrical safety for both members of the public in the event of any damage to the installation and personnel working on or around the intersection.' he added.

Basically, the ST750 is an LV controller, designed to switch incandescent and standard CLS LED-based signal heads. Where standard LV lamp switching is required, the ST750P provides the ideal solution, whilst retaining the robust and proven design features of the ST700P. For totally ELV installations, the ST750P ELV provides a highly innovative 48V system based on the successful ST900 ELV intersection controller.

Newcastle's trial ST900 ELV site has already recorded a 72% reduction in energy usage and has been judged a 'total success'. As a result, Steve Farrell, Senior Traffic Signal Manager for Newcastle City Council, is not alone in looking forward to the introduction of a completely ELV pedestrian controller. 'It is good news, and just as important as the traffic controller,' he said. 'All new junctions in Newcastle will be ELV and a priority list is being drawn up which will target the highest energy using junctions for refurbishment.'

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Trial ST750 controllers are expected to be installed before the end of the year and full production is scheduled to commence early in 2009. Recognising the need for installation flexibility, the ST750P family of LV and ELV controllers also offers a variety of construction options including TR2500-approved small and large cabinets, and rack module housing solutions.

Summary of technical specification

Advanced architecture

To ensure maximum reliability and to reduce the maintenance impact of the new ST750 family, extensive use of proven existing components has been made. For LV implementations, the reliable ST700 pedestrian controller module and lamp switches are used, offering standard 230V lamp switching with the option to directly drive pedestrian signals at 48V, without the need for additional transformers. For total ELV implementations, widespread use has been made of proven ST900 ELV components. Additionally, this controller incorporates a new, high-speed serial bus architecture, allowing greater freedom in the location of a range of dedicated components, including ST900 I/O cards and intelligent detector backplanes. Where required, integral TC12 OTU cards may be used to expand both controller types, which are also fully compatible with the Siemens semi-integral OMU and UTMC OTU.

User configurable

ST750 configuration data sets are prepared using the highly acclaimed and easy to use IC4 configurator. The configuration process is further simplified by the provision of prepared 'read-only' default files which may be modified to adjust all site-dependent variables prior to downloading, minimising the need for on-street changes. However, where required, specific settings such as timings and other parameters, including detector allocations and SDE parameters, may be adjusted on-site using a standard controller handset. The optional emulator is a feature-rich tool which links seamlessly with IC4 to provide an advanced environment for de-bugging and proving ST750P configurations. Using the same software source files as the controller firmware, it ensures a highly accurate representation of the controller operation on a PC.

Enhanced safety features

Two independent microprocessors and comprehensive hardware 'self-check' features provide exceptional levels of controller safety. This is further improved by full equivalence monitoring on all aspect drives (red, amber, green) ensuring that the incorrect display of any signal colour is prevented. Lamp monitoring is provided and is fully compatible with Siemens' LED signals. Additionally, the ST750P ELV also provides full lamp monitoring of compatible nearside signals.

About Siemens

Siemens 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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