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Siemens upgrades traffic communications technology in Reading

New replacement traffic controller equipment using IP communications technology is being supplied and installed by Siemens at ten sites in Reading to enable the authority to commence upgrading the UTC data transmission system from the existing equipment and make use of readily available ADSL broadband communications links.

According to Simon Beasley, representing Reading Borough Council, in a separate initiative Reading has already installed a number of UTMC Outstation Transmission Units (OTUs) to communicate using a corporate wireless network. 'This latest order will bring the total number of OTUs in Reading to around 25 and demonstrates the authority's commitment to using the latest UTMC technology,' he said.

'This implementation will reduce the authority's long term revenue spend on the existing communication and will release this funding for further upgrades in the future. The move to IP communications will also make the eventual system move simpler and more cost effective', he added.

Reading is a concentrated urban community with a population of 202,000, of which around 150,000 live within the borough's boundaries. Just under half of Reading's residents travel to work by car (the third lowest percentage of 67 South East authorities), and supporting an accessible and efficient transport network is key to maintaining Reading as a sustainable community.

Reading is in the process of planning for the future relocation out of its current offices. This move will be a major commitment for the authority both to ensure continuity of services and cost control.

Notes to editors:

About Reading

Reading is a socially diverse, vibrant and successful economic urban centre in the South East region. Recognised as the capital of the Thames Valley area, Reading has attracted significant investment from business, retail, sport and cultural sectors. A key factor in Reading's success is its connectivity, being identified as a regional transport hub and major transport interchange. The M4 motorway skirts the southern boundary of Reading, and provides access at three junctions, linking Reading to London and the West. The A33 connects Reading to the South via the M3, with 'A' roads to the east, west, and north connecting to the M40 and A34.

About Siemens in the UK

Siemens was established in the United Kingdom 166 years ago and now employs 18,402 people in the UK. Last year's revenues were £3.7 billion. As a leading global engineering and technology services company, Siemens provides innovative solutions to help tackle the world's major challenges, across the key sectors of energy, industry and healthcare. Siemens has offices and factories throughout the UK, with its headquarters in Frimley, Surrey. The company's global headquarters is in Munich, Germany. For more information, visit www.siemens.co.uk

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