

## **New bench traffic controller commended at IHT awards**

**The innovative bench controller conceived by Transport for London (TfL) and manufactured by Siemens received a commendation at The Institution of Highways and Transportation (IHT) Awards last night (18 June). Designed to improve the local environment in and around the transport system and enhance the urban streetscape, the bench controller was short-listed from over 25 entries to reach the final three entries in the IHT/Ringway Award for Innovation.**

IHT celebrates innovative achievements and rewards case study examples of best practice that can be emulated by other professionals within the transportation industry. The Innovation Award is for innovative problem solving within the highways and transportation industry. Its purpose is to recognise and encourage imaginative concepts and excellence. The new bench controller demonstrates a highly innovative approach to addressing environmental issues, and the future of junction and street design.

On behalf of the IHT Innovation Award judging panel Kate Carpenter, Technical Director of Jacobs said, 'In confined urban areas, this innovation combines a necessary piece of technology infrastructure with a beneficial seating opportunity which is valued by pedestrians, especially those who are elderly or have reduced mobility, or for parents with children. This combination maximises available footway space, resulting in a more attractive and less obstructed street scene'.

Engineers at Siemens worked closely with TfL to deliver an innovative and attractive solution that is both functional for public use and practical for servicing and repair. With the aim to minimise the impact of traffic technology street furniture in the urban environment, the new design is a bespoke solution with the appropriate layout and accommodation for the lifting mechanism. The bench controller design incorporates an integral scissor lift mechanism which raises the bench top to ensure easy access for maintenance.

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Improvements to the existing design are currently under consideration with TfL including an electronic lift mechanism, remote access, reduced use of materials and customisation of the housing to accommodate all new traffic equipment.

The first installation conceals a rack-mounted traffic controller running the adjacent pedestrian crossing for use by shoppers and staff visiting the Westfield shopping centre in London. The project started in 2007 when the contract for the manufacture and installation of the first two bench controllers was awarded to Siemens by TfL and finalised in 2008.

**Notes to editors:**

**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](http://www.siemens.co.uk)

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