

Setting new standards for journey time monitoring

An extensive trial of Siemens' next generation ANPR camera, Sicore, has been successfully completed in Liverpool. Siemens Sicore cameras were installed on four strategic routes across the city at 7 locations to capture and process number plate information for Liverpool's Journey Time Monitoring System.

According to Dave Smallwood, Divisional Manager - Traffic Operations, 2020 Liverpool Limited, the new technology worked extremely well for the application, saying 'the majority of main routes into Liverpool City Centre are dual carriageways and the wide detection zone of the dual lane Sicore unit provides a high level of number plate matches along routes of this type, ensuring a good source of data for the journey time calculations'.

Linking directly to Siemens' UTMC common database Comet, Sicore is now an integral component of journey time monitoring solutions. Referring to Sicore's impressive number plate reading capability of a full four metres width for single lane applications and seven metres width for dual lane applications Mark Bodger, Systems Marketing Manager, says: 'Sicore is capable of capturing both front and rear facing number plates from vehicles and includes an integral infra-red illuminator with a range of up to 35 metres for 24/7 operation. Compared to previous solutions, the new system allows for highly accurate capture of number plate information with fewer cameras needing to be installed at the roadside.'

Using technology originally developed for character recognition in postal sorting machines, the integrated ANPR engine from Siemens attains maximum read rates at vehicle speeds of up to 200 km/h.

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Sicore can also include search lists for up to one million vehicles stored locally in the camera, with detection of a listed number plate initiating predefined actions such as automatic forwarding of the recorded data to a management system – useful both in enforcement and security applications, as well as monitoring specific vehicles for classified journey time monitoring e.g. public transport vehicles. The data transmission is encrypted using industry standard protocols and hashing algorithms are also used where appropriate to ensure the anonymity of number plate data.

Sicore cameras are designed for operation in the roadside environment with robust construction and minimal maintenance requirements. The cameras operate without the need for any fan cooling at outdoor temperatures from -30°C to +60°C and the critical infrared illuminator uses an intelligent exposure control mechanism, dramatically increasing the service life of the camera compared to previous solutions.

About Siemens in the UK

Siemens was established in the United Kingdom 167 years ago and now employs 16,915 people in the UK. Last year's revenues were £4.2 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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