

Essex reduce energy bills with new LED technology

In partnership with SA2000, a joint venture between traffic technology company Siemens and leading consultants Atkins, Essex County Council has recently started the second phase of a retrofit programme to replace traffic signals with newly developed LED technology from Siemens. Aimed at reducing carbon emissions and power consumption, the project involves replacing over 750 signal heads with new LED technology at 47 junctions on a range of major routes across the county including sites in Colchester, Braintree and Chelmsford town centre.

According to Andy Champ, Senior ITS Specialist, representing Essex County Council, the new technology is expected to deliver considerable carbon and energy savings, reduced costs and enhanced safety. 'With the advantage of a strong working relationship with SA2000 contract partners, the retrofit programme represents another major ITS improvement in Essex and, more importantly, is highly sustainable. Based on a typical, medium-sized site, the annual power saving per site is estimated above 4,000KWh and the annual carbon saving over 2 tonnes per site', he said.

Cost effective traffic control is of growing importance and plays a critical role in the future of Essex County Council's transport networks, in particular addressing congestion and improving traveler information and safety on the county's roads.

Siemens low-power Helios retrofit solution enables both existing Siemens Helios and Peek Elite signal equipment to be upgraded to the latest Siemens CLS LED technology, whilst maximising the re-use of existing roadside infrastructure. Without compromising functionality or infrastructure investment, the additional future benefits include further carbon savings as a result of a reduction in the number of maintenance visits to regularly replace and clean traditional incandescent lamps that consume large amounts of power.

Enabling existing signals with incandescent lamps to be upgraded to LED technology, Siemens retrofit option provides significant savings without compromising the same excellent optical performance of existing Helios signals. Easy to install and offering full lamp monitoring compatibility, the low-power retrofit provides a sustainable solution with minimum waste and both high optical brightness and outstanding phantom performance.

Consuming an average of just 9W across a typical dim/bright cycle, the latest Helios retrofit modules offer power and carbon savings of over 75%. Thanks to the continued use of the well-proven SIRA lens, the optical performances of the signals remain excellent, providing both high brightness and outstanding phantom performance. For new installations, Siemens signal heads are available already fitted with the latest LED modules which are fully compatible with the latest controllers.

About SA2000

Extended in 2006, the SA2000 partnership contract is set to run until 2013 to assist Essex County Council in meeting the objectives of the Council's Local Transport Strategy and Public Service Agreements. Local Transport Plans place a strong emphasis on the use of advanced technology in monitoring traffic and providing real time information for motorists and users of public transport. Both Siemens and Atkins work closely with Essex County Council to develop further improvements and investment to provide cutting edge transport systems and such technologies which will lead to greater reliability of journey times, traveller information and improve the safety of drivers across Essex.

Siemens and Atkins have been working with Essex County Council since 2000 delivering traffic control and information systems covering CCTV and Urban Traffic Control. Joint initiatives have resulted in Essex becoming one of the UK's leading authorities in delivering Traffic Control and Information Systems.

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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