

## **Kent set to save with Urban Traffic Control upgrades**

**Kent County Council (KCC) is upgrading traffic control equipment at a number of sites in Maidstone with the deployment of new outstation transmission units (OTUs) from Siemens. Migration to IP-based communications and the latest UG405 communications protocol will deliver improvements to the existing Urban Traffic Control (UTC) and is calculated to deliver KCC significant communications cost savings. In addition, using the Kent Public Service Network, the council will trial a system of connections linking a number of public bodies including schools, District and Borough Councils, and local emergency services.**

According to Andrew Westwood, Technical Director of Jacobs Engineering, a service alliance partner representing KCC, the use of leased lines has been a big issue for local authorities for a number of years particularly since much of the communication infrastructure is becoming obsolete and difficult to maintain. 'After analysing the current costs it was clear that savings could be achieved by migrating the current equipment to lower-cost IP communications. The Siemens UG405 OTU was selected following a review by KCC.

Part of the project will seek to utilise and upgrade an existing fibre network in Maidstone connecting 14 junctions that currently use leased lines. This project requires installation of new routers and fibre through the ducting network and will enable the use and development of wireless networks to spur off the fibre.

A financial assessment will be carried out on completion of the project to assess the savings ahead of a significant planned migration away from leased lines across the county. The trial project should be complete by this summer, with subsequent roll-out completed by the end of 2011.

The latest UTMC-compliant outstation transmission unit (OTU) from Siemens provides customers with the full benefits available within SCOOT MC3 and fully implements the latest UG405 communications protocol.

According to the company's Head of Product Management, Keith Manston, the introduction of the new UTMC OTU and associated Siemens instation components has the potential to initiate a dramatic shift in the way UTC control is implemented on street. 'Not only does the system revolutionise the way outstation equipment is managed but, by the use of time-stamped communications, it enables a wide range of communication options to be used,' he said.

'Importantly, flexibility in communications offers customers the opportunity for significant savings in revenue by either using lower-cost IP communications links or sharing existing IP communications infrastructure for SCOOT control,' he added.

Additional system benefits include an enhanced web-based user-friendly interface enabling easy access to all OTU features from the instation and full integration of four MOVA 6 streams which may be activated either manually or automatically from the UTC instation. When associated with Siemens' new Outstation Support Server (OSS), the UTMC OTU offers features unique to Siemens. The OSS provides complete management of all UTMC OTU firmware and configuration data associated with OTUs within a particular system without needing to venture 'on-street'.

The new UG405 MIB integrates time-stamping which allows a wide choice of communication options to be considered. 'Ensuring the system is more tolerant of poor communications, the UG405 MIB with time-stamping, used in conjunction with SCOOT MC3 allows message packets which arrive delayed or out of sequence to be dealt with effectively whilst maintaining the benefits associated with SCOOT adaptive control,' Keith Manston stated.

**About Jacobs Engineering U.K. Limited**

Jacobs provides the traffic systems service for the design, implementation and maintenance of ITS equipment for Kent County Council under an alliance of partners called Kent Highway Services.

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

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