

Siemens wins 2010 Factory of the Year award

Siemens Mobility, Traffic Solutions has triumphed at the Best Factory Awards organised by Cranfield School of Management in partnership with the magazine *Works Management*. The Poole-based facility was recognised as the Toyota Material Handling Factory of the Year out of hundreds of UK manufacturing plants. The company also collected the award for Best Electronics and Electrical Plant, and received a highly commended award in the category for People Management and Skills Development at the ceremony on 17 September.

Managing Director, Gordon Wakeford, commented: 'The team at the Siemens facility in Poole has always aspired to win this most prestigious accolade in UK manufacturing. Winning the award amongst such strong competition is testimony to our innovative and committed employees who are heading off overseas competition every day.'

Dr Marek Szwejcowski, Director of the Best Factory Awards said: 'The Siemens facility in Poole is a factory of distinction, and provides a benchmark of manufacturing excellence, for others to strive for. Lean manufacturing is at the core of its success. Key elements deployed include one-piece flow, 5S workplace organisation, an employee suggestion scheme offering around 3,500 potential improvements in the past three or four years and cellular manufacturing.'

Employing over 120 full-time staff, the company's manufacturing site in Poole builds over 300 live-line products ranging from traffic controllers to variable message signs. It also manufactures printed circuit boards for export across the world, competing with countries including China and South America.

Gordon Wakeford added: 'Despite the current economic climate and difficult trading conditions, Siemens is flying the flag for British manufacturing with major export orders for the supply of traffic signal equipment assembled at the award winning facility.'

From Columbia and Cyprus to Dubai and the Republic of Ireland, international business continues to grow and such success is having a positive impact on the company's robust performance and the factory.

The latest order for traffic controllers is destined for various customers around China. In the past few years more than 2,000 Siemens signal controllers have been delivered to the region. Reinforcing Siemens' ability to compete on the world stage and provide best value in overseas markets, the continued export of equipment for overseas traffic control includes around 50% of all PCB production at the company's manufacturing base.

In recent years, the factory has gained BSI accreditation for environmental management and winning prestigious industry awards for excellence from the British Quality Foundation, ASLEC and HEMSA also highlights the company's recent achievements in the UK and commitment towards continuous improvement.

Notes to editors:

Attached photographs

- Representatives from the company at the 2010 Best Factory Awards at the Grand Connaught Rooms in London on 17 September
- Image of some of the equipment at the Poole facility

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

For more information, contact: Siemens Mobility, Traffic Solutions,

Head of Communications

Peter Preston
Tel: 01202 782390
Email: peter.preston@siemens.com

PR Account Manager

Julian Gollogly
Tel: 07770 924441
Email: julian.gollogly@ntlworld.com

This press release can be found on the web at: www.siemens.co.uk/traffic



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