

Streets Ahead

The magazine of Traffic Solutions | April 2009

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SIEMENS

NEWS

TRAFFEX

INNOVATION

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Traffex 2009

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Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of *Streets Ahead*, the magazine from Siemens. As always, Traffex is a major event in our calendar; an opportunity to showcase the latest innovations in traffic control systems developed by Siemens. All the details about our presence at Traffex, including the presentations we'll be giving, can be found on pages 8-10. The rest of this issue of *Streets Ahead* is devoted to the usual mix of news and innovation, including the launch of LaneHawk, our new bus lane enforcement system (page 13), and the launch of MultaRadar S780, a fixed radar-based digital camera system (page 12).

We welcome your feedback, so please get in touch using the details on the back page – or better still, why not come and talk to us at Traffex, on stand C10 – we look forward to seeing you there.



Double triumph

Siemens scooped two prestigious accolades at the ASLEC (Association of Signals, Lighting and other Highway Electrical Contractors) annual awards ceremony, earlier this year. The awards, ASLEC Member of the Year (Large Organisation) and ASLEC Employee of the Year, recognise organisations and individuals who have made significant contributions to the highway electrical industry in the UK over the past 12 months.

Director of Field Services at Siemens, Mick Murphy commented: "Winning these awards really reflects our commitment to business improvement initiatives, health and safety training and professional development. The fact that the awards were judged by our peers really puts our achievements over the past year into perspective."

Peter Leslie, installation operative, based in Dundee, was the proud recipient of the Employee of the Year Award.

Peter joined Siemens in 2006 as part of the Siemens Electrotechnical Services Scholarship Programme. Since then, he has received many commendations from customers, applauding his professionalism, dedication to purpose, high quality of workmanship and dexterity within the scope of installation practices. Peter's application of skills across all aspects of the traffic sector, exceptional achievements within a short timescale, and the level of trust and respect he has achieved allowed him to secure this prestigious award.



Highest placed trainee Peter Leslie (right) receiving award.

"I'm delighted that my achievements have been rewarded, particularly the new traffic signal junction installation at Kingsway Junction in Dundee," said Peter. "As an advancing trainee within Siemens, my ultimate goal is to progress within the company by developing my skills further and providing outstanding customer support."



Supporting standards and competence

New professional certificates in traffic signal control, awarded by the Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers (IHIE) and supported by Siemens, set a new standard for the specialist practitioner.

Endorsed by the CSS Traffic Signal Group and Transport for London (TfL), the certificates allow engineers to match their knowledge and competence in the conception, design and installation of signals at foundation, practitioner and expert level.



The professional certificates lead directly onto Membership or Fellowship of IHIE and also provide a foundation for the National Transportation Qualifications (NTQs).

For more information about obtaining the certificates, please visit: www.ihie.org.uk

Delays minimised for opening

With an additional 5,000 vehicles inbound on the approach road to the new IKEA store in Southampton on the opening day alone and 25,000 visitors on each of the first four days of trading, traffic demand was not surprisingly at its peak in February. Thanks to pre-planning and the overall effectiveness of the existing management systems supplied and integrated by Siemens, traffic delays were kept to a minimum.

Over many years, Southampton ROMANSE has developed Siemens Comet and UTC systems with over 8,000 traffic management strategies to control the city's network. The ROMANSE control room staff, in liaison with a traffic management team from IKEA, successfully managed the local traffic to avoid any major issues for the opening.

According to Martin Wylie, Traffic Signals Engineer, Southampton ROMANSE, the new IKEA store in Southampton City Centre is extremely important to the city and its economy and therefore the expeditious movement of those visiting the store is a key priority.

Praising the teams at Siemens for their efforts in delivering the associated works, Martin said: "I would especially like to thank Siemens and their respective operatives who combined



to deliver the traffic signal works on four junctions on our West Quay Road, all in time for the store opening. I would also like to thank Siemens for the delivery and installation of two large variable message car park guidance signs for the new IKEA car park."

"All of the work was undertaken in a timely and professional manner even when prevailing weather conditions were less than desirable for working on the highway," he added.

As part of the new IKEA store opening, Siemens made modifications to four existing junctions and installed two variable message car park guidance signs to display details of available spaces in the new IKEA store car park.

PC SCOOT in China

Two Siemens PC SCOOT systems have recently been installed in the Chinese cities of Nanjing and Wuhan, and more equipment has been supplied to Chengdu and Dalian. In Nanjing, 95 junctions will be managed and controlled by PC SCOOT and in Wuhan, capital of the Hubei province, 426 junctions will be monitored.

The Wuhan contract represents one of the company's largest overseas orders in recent years. It forms part of a prestigious World Bank project that includes the provision of a new Urban Traffic Control (UTC) system with PC SCOOT, and the supply and installation of more than 400 signal controllers and 1,000 detector units over a period of 18 months.

According to Peter Gorton, Siemens' General Sales Manager, cities in China are among the most progressive in all Asia, building infrastructure for the future to deal with growing populations and increased levels of road and pedestrian traffic. "Supporting this continued development, our systems and equipment will help both cities manage the additional traffic more effectively," he said.



Signs of flood warnings

With rising water levels on the River Soar now relatively common in winter, Leicester City Council has placed a contract with Traffic Solutions for an automatic flood warning system to alert road users in the area.

On detection of high water levels, flood-warning messages will be displayed on four large variable message signs (VMS) and a further two smaller traffic information signs until the high water level has subsided.

The flood warning device interfaces to a Siemens Gemini unit mounted in a new cabinet via voltage-free contacts. On detection of rising water levels by the new device, the Gemini unit receives a signal and dials the RMS in-station using GSM communications.

The RMS (remote monitoring system) in-station dials the traffic information signs, which then display the flood warning message and the signal is also passed to SieSpace, via Comet, enabling four variable message signs to display an appropriate message.

New signals optimised for pedestrian control

With production now fully underway, Siemens' new family of ST750P high-performance pedestrian controllers incorporates the latest LED technology and low power consumption, and is now further enhanced by an attractive range of new pedestrian signals fully compatible with the entire range of controllers available from Siemens including the ST750P ELV.

As reported in the last issue of Streets Ahead (October 2008), the modern and vandal resistant pedestrian signal options feature robust aluminium die-cast enclosures with poly-carbonate screens and a new all-metal touch-activated button with clear pedestrian signalisation.

According to Keith Manston, Siemens' Head of Product Management, the wide choice of signalling options are stylish and well-designed for modern day use by pedestrians and also offer both low voltage (LV) and extra low voltage (ELV) solutions. "Combining good looks with exceptional performance, improved longevity means fewer maintenance visits have to be carried out, which in turn helps reduce carbon emissions," he said.



Enabling the implementation of a total ELV solution for all new sites, the new pedestrian controller family is certified to TR2500 and provides Pelican, Puffin and Toucan control strategies at both low voltage (230V) and extra-low voltage (48V) drive levels, all offering significant power cost savings over conventional solutions.



"Significantly, the use of ELV provides reduced power and cabling costs as well as improved lamp monitoring of very low power LED traffic and pedestrian signals. The lamp monitoring functionality ensures that failures of cabling or pole top connections can be detected automatically, allowing the installation to be fully returned to full operation with the minimum of delay. ELV also provides increased electrical safety for both members of the public in the event of any damage to the installation and personnel working on or around the intersection," he added.

The first ST750P ELV has been trialed in Poole, Dorset, at a key refurbished dual crossing in the town centre. The site has already recorded a reduction in energy usage and has been judged a resounding success. As a result, ELV pedestrian controllers are set to become standard for all installations in Poole according to Brian Daveney, Traffic Signal Engineer for Borough of Poole. "We're extremely impressed with the ELV solution and especially the energy and cost savings it has given us. The ELV initiative forms the basis of the Council's carbon reduction footprint plan which will enable us to be at the forefront of sustainable technology," he said.



Recognising the need for installation flexibility, the ST750P family of LV and ELV controllers also offers a variety of construction options including TR2500-approved small and large cabinets, and rack module housing solutions.

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Signalling a reduction in carbon footprint with Siemens' retrofit

A newly developed LED signal head retrofit option from Siemens provides real opportunities for significant carbon footprint reductions. With the same excellent optical performance as existing Helios signals and carbon savings of over 75%, the Helios retrofit enables existing installed signals to be upgraded to the latest CLS LED technology, whilst maximising the re-use of existing roadside infrastructure.

According to Keith Manston, Siemens' Head of Product Management, the significant carbon impact on the environment of existing traffic signalling equipment with traditional incandescent lamps that need regular replacement and consume large amounts of power is a growing concern. "There are many thousands of Helios traffic signals installed, but the majority of them are still fitted with traditional incandescent signal lamps. As well as consuming large amounts of power, the need to regularly replace these lamps has a significant carbon impact, both in the manufacture of the lamps and the vehicle miles travelled," he said.

Enabling existing signals with incandescent lamps to be upgraded to LED technology, Siemens has developed the retrofit option to provide significant power and carbon savings without compromising functionality or infrastructure investment. 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%. The modules fit any existing Helios traffic signal body, minimising waste and disposal issues – and further enhancing the carbon savings achieved. "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," Keith added.

For new installations, signal heads are available already fitted with the latest LED modules which are fully compatible with the latest controllers.

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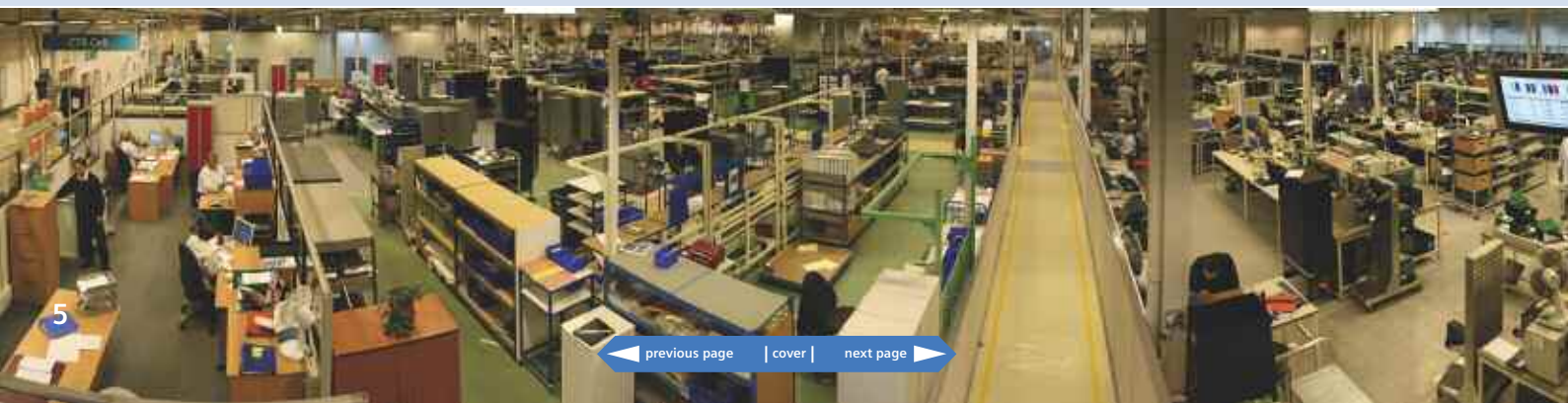
Employing over 120 full-time staff, the company's manufacturing site in Poole builds 300 live-line products in addition to managing a range of other activities and providing technical support.

As well as investing in new machinery to increase productivity, the company continues to regularly recruit apprentices as well as train and develop operators and management in business improvement techniques. Thirty operators and eight managers have recently commenced NVQ level 2 and

NVQ level 4 respectively, and 16 managers have just completed NVQ level 3 in business improvement techniques.

According to Operations Director, Gary Winstanley, BSI accreditation for environmental management (see page 7) and winning prestigious industry awards for excellence from the British Quality Foundation, ASLEC and HEMSA also highlight the company's recent achievements in the UK and commitment towards continuous business improvement.

Traffic Solutions is flying the flag for British manufacturing thanks to recent business awards and contract wins against competition from China and Mexico to assemble PCBs for traffic products for mainland Europe and USA.



New traffic controller built into a bench



A brand new type of traffic controller, the first of its kind to be built by Siemens for Transport for London (TfL), has recently been installed on a trial site in London. The innovative bench design conceals a rack-mounted traffic controller running the adjacent pedestrian crossing for use by unsuspecting shoppers and staff visiting the Westfield shopping centre.

The concept was created by TfL and manufactured by Siemens with the specific objective to improve the local environment in and around the transport system and enhance the urban streetscape. 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.

According to Tom MacMorran, the company's Sales and Marketing Director, the new development demonstrates the company's open-minded approach to addressing environmental issues, and the future of junction and street design.

"We worked closely with TfL to deliver an innovative and attractive solution that is both functional for public use and practical for servicing and repair," he said. The bench controller design incorporates an integral scissor-lift mechanism, which raises the bench top to ensure easy access for maintenance.

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. 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 pedestrian crossing in Westfield is an ideal position for the first trial – a perimeter road used predominantly by buses and staff with relatively low vehicle and pedestrian flows. A second bench controller is soon to be installed at the Rockley Road junction on Shepherds Bush Green, a busy area outside the West 12 shopping centre with high pedestrian and traffic flows.

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Refresher training at Siemens



The Skills Training and Assessment Centre is always looking at new ways of responding to customer needs. Having adopted the approach that one size does not necessarily fit all, the Training Centre will shortly be adding refresher training to its already comprehensive portfolio of systems training courses – targeted specifically for customers who need a top-up rather than starting from scratch.

According to the company's Training Operations Manager, Lydia Chamberlain, system users don't always need to attend a full course. "Some system users have a basic working knowledge of a system and only need to understand the more advanced functionalities, or they just

need a reminder on how certain parts of the system work. Refresher training is much more suited to users with a prior level of understanding, with the added benefit of being shorter and cheaper courses to attend," she said.

Customers can either attend a refresher course at the newly refurbished Training Centre based in Poole, Dorset, or one of the company's professional trainers can run the course on a customer site if there is a sufficient number of people to attend the course.

It's also important to Siemens to be flexible and receptive to customers' needs. "We are always responsive to the

feedback provided by our customers. If they have thoughts or comments on the training that we do or can provide, we encourage them to contact us and let us know by submitting a feedback form on our website, and we try our hardest to accommodate their requirements," concluded Lydia.

For more information and a list of refresher courses available, or to get in contact about running a course off site, visit www.siemens.co.uk/traffic. Alternatively, you can email the Training Centre by contacting Alan Pickering.

 alan.pickering@siemens.com



Forthcoming training courses

In addition to refresher training courses, the Siemens Training Centre will also be running the following full courses:

May 11 - May 15 UTC System Managers (Ref: 08-09_531)
June 2 - June 3 RMS System Operators (Ref: 08-09_565)
June 15 - June 18 Comet System Managers (Ref: 08-09_507)
July 13 - July 17 UTC System Operators (Ref: 08-09_566)

BSI accreditation

Environmental considerations are fast becoming one of the key factors behind the purchasing decisions of our customers. Following a series of audits in September last year, Traffic Solutions has been awarded an Environmental Management System (EMS) certificate by BSI. We are now therefore certified to ISO14001:2004 standard at Poole, Hayes, Droitwich, Glasgow and Belfast.

According to the company's Business Assurance Manager, Colin Cox: "This is a tremendous achievement which was only made possible with the assistance and support of those staff that took part in the certification audit process and is doubly important to our business in supporting our customers' changing environmental priorities."

ISO14000 is the international specification for environmental management systems and it help organisations understand and minimise their impacts on the environment and their compliance with legislation and regulations.

ISO14001 is a standard within the 14000 series and specifies requirements for establishing an environmental policy, identifying environmental aspects and impacts of products, activities or services and planning environmental objectives and targets, implementation and operation of programmes to meet objectives and targets, checking and corrective action, and management review.

ISO14000 is similar to ISO9000 in that both focus on the process rather than the product itself. The overall idea is to establish an organised approach to reduce the impact of the identified environmental aspects which an organisation can control.

Colin Cox concluded: "This is a further example of Siemens' commitment to sustainability. Not only can our customers be confident that our products will help them meet challenging environmental requirements, they can be confident that we are considering similar concerns throughout the end-to-end process of getting these innovative products to market."

Traffex Theatre

You are invited to join key members of the Siemens team who will be presenting at the Traffex Theatre:

ELV – the total solution

At 2.00pm on Wednesday 22 April, Keith Manston, Head of Product Management, will examine the significant savings that can now be achieved over conventional solutions, building on the success of proven technology. With improved lamp monitoring of very low power LED traffic and pedestrian signals as well as increased electrical safety, Extra Low Voltage (ELV) is now practical for all new sites, both intersection and pedestrian.



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Fuel for thought?

At 11.00am on Tuesday 21 April, Mark Bodger, Systems Marketing Manager, will explore a number of innovative traffic solutions aimed at minimising the damaging effects and increasing cost of road congestion, and also the company's approach to sustainability for the long-term benefit of local authorities, motorists and the general public.

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Enforcement

LaneHawk
Making its debut at Traffex 2009, LaneHawk is a new fully-automated, digital bus lane enforcement system based on Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology. Providing improved violation detection and management, reduced costs and ultimately more efficient public transport, LaneHawk removes the need for hours of manual viewing and editing of CCTV footage to identify violations and prepare evidential records (see page 13).

MultaRadar S780
In partnership with ROBOT Visual Systems, Siemens unveils the MultaRadar S780 – a new concept in speed enforcement – at Traffex 2009. MultaRadar S780 is a fixed radar-based digital system that offers enhanced flexibility and functionality over existing legacy wet-film cameras (see page 12).

Congestion charging – Low Emission Zone
Based on ANPR technology, we showcase proven technology being used by Transport for London (TfL) for both London's central congestion charging scheme and, more recently, the Low Emission Zone (LEZ), the first of its kind in the UK and the largest in the world. The scheme discourages the use of the most polluting lorries, coaches and buses to improve air quality and public health across the capital.

Bench controller
Intended for installation where an attractive streetscape is a primary requirement, the innovative bench design conceals a rack-mounted controller which is easily raised for installation and maintenance access (see page 6).

Design Services

SCOOTLink
Microsimulation combined with SCOOT allows the evaluation and selection of the most effective options and the presentation of strategic objectives in a visualised format that can easily be related to the road network.

SiTraffic Office
A comprehensive traffic office management system to enable customers to safely validate network performance in advance of committing capital funds. SiTraffic Office provides a suite of innovative tools to support the paperless office, intersection and network optimisation and significant data export tools for other 3rd party applications.

IC4
Siemens' new feature rich IC4 emulator links seamlessly with the IC4 configurator to provide an advanced environment for de-bugging and proving of Siemens controller configurations. Using the same software source files as the controller firmware, it ensures a highly accurate representation of up to eight controllers on a single PC.

UTMC OTU

Siemens' new UTMC traffic outstation offers compliance with UG405 as well as outstanding user accessibility and up to four integrated MOVA steams. The OTU provides a comprehensive, flexible solution for the UTC connectivity of all on-street equipment using copper, fibre or wireless communications.

Heimdall

Using advanced 24GHz radar technology, Heimdall above-ground detectors enable all the benefits of SCOOT and MOVA to be realised with none of the road surface disruption associated with below-ground systems.

ST900 family

Unveiled at Traffex 2007, the ST900 family is now widely considered as the UK's leading range of intersection controllers for both LV and ELV installations. The ST900 LED is the latest addition to this range, intended for use in LV retrofit schemes where the controller is also to be replaced.

Helios retrofit

A newly developed LED signal head retrofit option from Siemens provides real opportunities for significant carbon footprint reductions. With the same excellent optical performance as existing Helios signals and carbon savings of over 75%, the Helios retrofit enables existing installed signals to be upgraded to the latest CLS LED technology whilst maximising the re-use of existing roadside equipment (see page 5).

Pedestrian solutions

The new ST750P family of high performance pedestrian controllers is now available from Siemens. Certified to TR2500 the family provides Pelican, Puffin and Toucan control strategies at both low voltage (230V) and extra-low voltage (48V) drive levels.

The ST750 is complemented by a complete new range of pedestrian street furniture, which is both attractive and vandal resistant (see page 4).

Urban Systems

Comet

Siemens' market leading Comet UTMC system, an advanced traffic management and information system with a scalable, modular design, has been further developed to include the complete integration of journey time monitoring (JTMS). Linking directly to ANPR cameras, the company's latest generation of Comet now includes the ability to monitor the network performance and enhance the integration of urban traffic management information.

PC SCOOT

PC SCOOT offers users numerous benefits, including ease of use, simple installation and migration, and reduced equipment and maintenance costs.

The advanced features provide more opportunities for implementing a range of traffic control solutions. PC SCOOT includes all the major features of the Siemens UTC/SCOOT system; monitoring traffic in real-time, it optimises traffic signal operation and adjusts the signal timings to match prevailing conditions, thus increasing network efficiency.

RMS (remote monitoring system)

The highly successful Siemens RMS is the UK's market leading product for remote monitoring and the latest version is on show at Traffex 2009 with several enhanced features.

Telscan

The Telscan digital CCTV system portfolio has been enhanced to provide traffic managers with a range of options for viewing and recording traffic conditions at remote sites using video over IP, ISDN or PSTN communications. A control interface is provided with full pan-tilt-zoom functionality.

Apollo

Traffic managers have increased responsibility to manage the impact of traffic pollution on the local environment. The Siemens Apollo roadside pollution monitor offers a cost-effective solution to manage pollution levels and is an important part of the ITS toolbox. Recently introduced is the standalone Apollo, offered complete with a fully managed service that provides environmental managers with exactly the right reports when they are needed.

Signing systems/VMS

Siemens' variable message signs provide highly visible and concise information to drivers, enabling them to be better informed, reducing traffic congestion, shortening journey times and lowering pollution levels. The signs are designed to be highly configurable, adaptable, and flexible to meet many different requirements and comply with the Highways Agency specifications.

Come and visit Traffex 2009

Event partner and one of the largest exhibitors, Siemens will underline its primary position as UK partner of choice for traffic solutions by unveiling new designs and equipment embracing innovation and sustainability.



Siemens representatives, including those listed opposite on page 8, look forward to welcoming you to the stand at Traffex and will be pleased to discuss your requirements over a coffee in our dedicated hospitality area.

New software model

Over the past few years, Siemens' Design Services team has used microsimulation to provide accurate and detailed assessments of new junctions and road layout schemes.



We have successfully evaluated control systems, ensuring our customers are well informed before changing any site layouts on street. From stand-alone junction modelling in support of a design project, to corridor and city centre models, Siemens combines knowledge of systems and design with real traffic data to provide solutions.

Adding to the experience of working with other microsimulation software, Siemens will be working with Southampton City Council and Transport Simulation Systems (TSS) on a project which will produce an offline version of the Southampton ROMANSE system (including Comet, UTC and SCOOT) linked to the Aimsun suite of products such that detailed analysis of the

city's main routes can be undertaken. The first phase of this development will use the TSS Aimsun software to update an existing model of the Bitterne Bus Gating Scheme.

“This development is an important step towards a simulation-based strategy assessment platform for Southampton City Council”

According to Alex Gerodimos of TSS, the company is delighted to be working with Siemens to develop an interface between Aimsun and SCOOT. “This development is an important step towards a simulation-based strategy assessment platform for Southampton City Council,” he said.

Commenting on a recent TSS training course for the Aimsun software, Traffic Modeller for Siemens, Teresa Druce said: “The new software is extremely user-friendly to apply and we're now most keen to progress with the new modelling opportunity with Southampton City Council.” For more information contact Design Services (see page 8).

Capital idea

Designed, supplied, installed and operated by Siemens, the largest Low Emission Zone (LEZ) in the world has been successfully operating within Greater London for over a year now.

Conceived to tackle the worst polluters on Transport for London's road network, the LEZ initially targeted diesel lorries over 12 tonnes in weight. In July 2008, the criteria was extended to include all lorries, as well as buses and coaches weighing over 3.5 tonnes. Operators of vehicles that do not meet the LEZ emissions standards have to pay a charge of £200 for each day they are driving in the zone.

If the relevant charge is not paid, a Penalty Charge Notice amount of £1,000 is issued for each charging day.

Initial data on the impact of the Greater London LEZ shows a clear trend towards delivering air quality benefits to Londoners.

According to Andy Gill, Product Marketing Manager, “The implementation of a LEZ offers the chance to remove the most environmentally unfriendly vehicles from the local road network, whilst at the same time showing the general public that local government shares their view about the importance of the environment.”



A new concept in speed enforcement from Siemens and ROBOT



In partnership with ROBOT Visual Systems, Siemens unveils the MultaRadar S780 at Traffex 2009. This fixed radar-based digital system offers enhanced flexibility and functionality over existing legacy wet-film cameras.

According to Mark Bonnor-Moris, the company's Product Manager for Enforcement Systems, ROBOT's proven design and development expertise, coupled with Siemens' comprehensive service infrastructure and financing options, provides customers with an attractive and competitive upgrade path for their existing safety cameras.

“MultaRadar S780 offers significant value-added benefits”

“MultaRadar S780 technology and service options offer customers significant value-added benefits over competitor solutions,” he said.

“The MultaRadar S780 has been designed and developed specifically to meet the Home Office requirements for Speed Law Enforcement Devices, ensuring a high level of performance and fulfilling the stringent Home Office standards for independent secondary speed check and security standards,” he said.

The MultaRadar deploys ROBOT's latest digital 11-megapixel camera, enabling customers to configure the system for either driver recognition using front photography or as a direct replacement

for existing rear photography-based systems. The system can be used in either stand-alone mode, or connected to a back-office through both wired and wireless communication for remote retrieval of contraventions.

Commenting on behalf of the London Safety Camera Partnership, Michael Tucker, Assistant Project Manager stated: “The London Safety Camera Partnership is trialling the MultaRadar S780 digital speed enforcement camera as part of the Home Office and ACPO official testing programme. Once approved, the S780 digital camera will offer an additional option for upgrading existing analogue safety camera systems. The S780 provides the additional functionality of driver recognition through front photography and can remotely send violations to the back-office operation.”

To help customers replace existing legacy equipment with new technology, Siemens has used its experience gained as the UK market leader in traffic control to develop appropriate servicing and finance packages to make the transition seamless. Mark Bonnor-Moris added: “Financing, installation, servicing and training are equally important factors as selecting the right technology.”

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Keeping an eye on bus lane violation



Siemens has introduced a new fully automated, digital bus lane enforcement system based on Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology. Providing improved violation detection and management, reduced costs and ultimately more efficient public transport, LaneHawk removes the need for hours of viewing and editing CCTV footage to identify violations and prepare evidential records.



According to Mark Bonnor-Moris, the company's Product Manager for Enforcement Systems, LaneHawk interfaces easily with existing enforcement back-office facilities, providing a high performance solution that is simple, quick, efficient and unattended. “LaneHawk's high resolution evidential images and increased capture rate greatly improves the cost effectiveness of bus lane enforcement and the work of traffic managers and parking enforcement officers - and in turn the operation of public transport and the road network generally,” he said.

“Furthermore, LaneHawk will be the first digital unattended system to obtain manufacturer's approval status from the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA). This will enable Siemens to install and commission systems without the need to seek further approval from the VCA,” he added.

LaneHawk compares potentially violating vehicles against a dynamic 'white list' of allowed vehicles such as buses, taxis, emergency and delivery vehicles. LaneHawk will automatically prepare evidential records for unauthorised

vehicles and send them directly to the enforcement back-office.

Essex County Council previously used video and CCTV-based solutions for bus lane enforcement. According to Dave Howard, Traffic Management and Parking Officer, these systems provided inconsistent image quality and were labour intensive to manage and retrieve images. “Siemens' LaneHawk provides us with the technology to enforce our bus lanes more effectively by capturing more offences, providing complete evidential records remotely and integrating the information with our existing back-office system,” he said. The first installation of LaneHawk was completed in Essex, in early April.

The LaneHawk outstation consists of an ANPR reader with an IRIDIS imaging assembly that captures images of vehicles entering the zone and determines the vehicle's registration number. In addition, a colour video overview will record five seconds of video images prior to the violation to remove any ambiguity of the vehicle's movement.

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A helping hand

Traffic Solutions has helped the Dorset Blind Association to improve the quality of the transcription service that it offers across the county. Two donations totalling £650.00 have enabled the charity to fund much-needed equipment which is used by volunteers to transcribe and record written material onto tapes, CDs and mp3s for the blind and partially-sighted people in the area to enjoy.

“Community spirit and diversity are very important to the company”

Commenting on the donation, James Isaacs at Traffic Solutions said: “Community spirit and diversity are very important to the company and our employees, and we are particularly committed to supporting and promoting groups that help disadvantaged people, such as the Dorset Blind Association, in areas where the company operates.”



A patient at Poole Hospital using an audio menu that was produced by the Dorset Blind Association.

Credit Becky Ward - Poole Hospital Medical.

Assisting school children with special needs

A new pedestrian controller and crossing system has been jointly funded and installed in Barnsley to enable pupils with special educational needs attending Greenacre School to practice their skills in a safe environment. Greenacre School is Barnsley's only non-residential special day school, providing education for up to 180 pupils aged 2 – 19 years with severe and complex needs.

The joint initiative involved staff from Siemens, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC) and civil contractor SCD in the design and installation of a new crossing that meets the specification required by the Highways Agency.

For Greenacre School, Andrew Whitaker, Business and Administration Manager commented: “Supporting the pupils and

the school in this way is tremendous and we are extremely grateful to all parties. One of the school's key missions is to help everyone learn how to be safe, and the new equipment will certainly have a positive impact on the pupils' level of road safety awareness.”

On behalf of Barnsley MBC, Gary McNaught, said: “I was very pleased with the positive reaction from Siemens, SCD and my own team with this very worthwhile project. The finished installation has been well received by the staff and students of Greenacre and will be used by other schools in the area for road safety training.” Chris Durkan from SCD added that it was important to give something back to the local community and offered his services free of charge.



New website

Our new website is now up and running. Find out all the latest news and product information at www.siemens.co.uk/traffic.

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