

Streets Ahead

The magazine of Traffic Solutions | September 2009

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SIEMENS


NEWS

OVERSEAS

PRODUCTS

Support for energy saving and sustainable solutions

Praise for ELV in Southampton
page 2



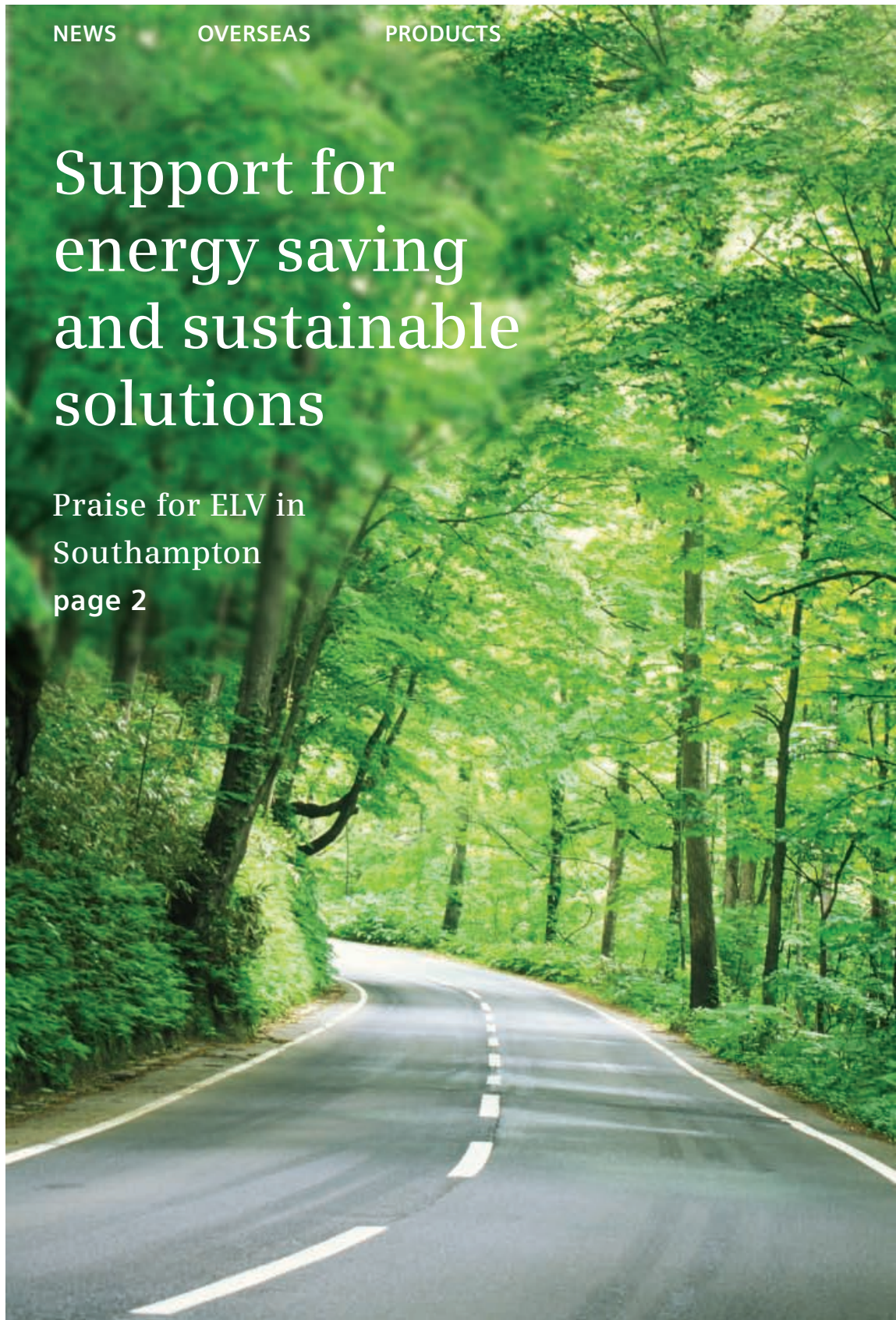
Reducing energy
New Highways Agency contract

page 3



Delhi bus system
Major contract win

page 5



Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Streets Ahead, the magazine of Traffic Solutions.

In this edition we highlight our involvement in this month's JCT Traffic Signal Symposium and Exhibition at the University of Hertfordshire, and round-up some of the latest product developments, contract wins and company news.

In addition to exhibiting at JCT, presentations will be made by our Systems Marketing Manager, Mark Bodger and Head of Product Management, Keith Manston.

During session 4 on Wednesday 23 September, Mark will deliver a paper which highlights the benefits of the new UG405 protocol used in UTM communications and reviews the results of street trials which have been conducted using different communications techniques.

During session 5 on Thursday morning, Keith's paper reviews the performance of above-ground detection equipment compared with traditional loop detectors – see page 6 for a summary of the results.



Our continued commitment to sustainable solutions is further demonstrated with the first orders for Helios retrofit (see below) and in addition to the forthcoming nationwide Retrofit Roadshow in November, we will also be represented at the following events:

- Safer Roads Partnership: 20-21 October, Manchester
- Integrated Transport: 4 November, London
- Road Expo Scotland: 4-5 November, Edinburgh
- Road Safety Expo 2009: 12 November, London

We hope you enjoy reading Streets Ahead and look forward to seeing you at one of the forthcoming events.

Siemens success praised in Southampton



Martin Wylie (right) pictured with Tom MacMorran, Sales and Marketing Director, Siemens Mobility, Traffic Solutions

Siemens has recently supplied and installed full Extra Low Voltage (ELV) technology at six sites in Southampton in just one week. Recognising both the carbon and energy savings achievable through Siemens traffic products and the company's excellent delivery performance, Southampton's Traffic Signal Engineer, Martin Wylie, has been full of praise for the company - noting the performance of the factory and field services in particular.

Praising the company's performance and cooperation to target sustainable solutions, Martin said: 'We are working with Siemens on a number of initiatives to reduce the carbon emissions associated with our Intelligent Transport Systems. The City has secured funding from the Carbon Trust via the fund administrator, Salix, and hopes to deploy low energy LED traffic signals across the City with an estimated reduction in carbon emissions in excess of 400t per annum. Southampton intends to use a combination of low energy products including ELV technology and LED retrofit solutions'.

'LED Helios retrofit from Siemens is a perfect solution and delivers the same energy savings as ELV. Thanks to the Carbon Trust and Salix finance, the project further demonstrates the great sustainable and environmental opportunities that working with Siemens can offer', Martin added.

As part of a carbon offset programme aligned to the vehicle mileage used as part of the traffic signals maintenance contract with Southampton, Siemens will plant three trees later this year (one for each year of the contract) as part of the City's prestigious High Street development scheme.

For more information contact National Sales Manager, Steve Parsons.

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Major move to save energy by Highways Agency

In partnership with highways services company EnterpriseMouchel, Traffic Solutions has been awarded a major project by the Highways Agency to upgrade traffic signals at junctions on motorways and major A roads in the South of England with Extra Low Voltage (ELV) equipment.



New replacement ELV traffic controllers and signal heads will be supplied and installed by Siemens at more than 40 junctions. These include the M3 in Surrey and Hampshire, the M4 in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and part of Wiltshire, the M27 and A27 in Hampshire and the A3 in Surrey as part of EnterpriseMouchel's Managed Area Contract (MAC) with the Highways Agency.

The new equipment is being installed following surveys by the Siemens' Design Services and is expected to be validated and fully completed in ten months.

Among the first areas to benefit from the improved energy-saving signals will be the M3 around Lightwater in Surrey and Basingstoke in Hampshire; the M4 near Swindon; and the A3 at Guildford. Other junctions in the south will be upgraded in due course.

Highways Agency Construction Manager Guy Berresford said: 'This work is part of our commitment to help improve safety and journey reliability. The new LED traffic lights use less power and will be more visible to drivers in bright, sunny conditions. This has the double advantage of saving energy and increasing safety for road users.'

According to Siemens' Regional Design Services Manager, Craig Hamilton, many local authorities have already adopted Siemens' highly successful ST900 ELV intersection controllers and the recently launched ST750P ELV pedestrian controllers. 'This latest project represents another significant order aimed at saving energy and improving safety,' he said.

“This latest project represents another significant order aimed at saving energy and improving safety”

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. 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 junction.

Extra low voltage controllers

Siemens' highly successful extra low voltage intersection controllers together with the ELV pedestrian controller, enables the implementation of a total ELV solution for all new sites. The new ST750P pedestrian 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.

For more information about ELV solutions, contact National Sales Manager, Steve Parsons.

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New signs unveiled in Nottingham



Jane Urquhart of Nottingham City Council surveys a newly installed Siemens VMS

Nottingham City Council has unveiled the first new variable message parking signs supplied and installed by Siemens as part of a revolutionary new project to help cut congestion and parking queues in the city. ParkSmart aims to establish a comprehensive car-park guidance signing strategy by integrating traffic and destination management for five colour-coded and uniquely named zones in the city centre, each reflecting a specific character of the area.

The project includes the supply, installation, commission and servicing of 44 modular,

single-pole, car park variable message signs (VMS) and 40 non-VMS advanced directional signs in and around the centre of Nottingham.

The locations of the signs have been specifically identified and designed. All of the car park operators have supported the proposals to install detection equipment that is UTMC compliant facilitating communications with Nottingham's Traffic Control Centre (TCC).

VMS will be used at important 'decision making' points around the city centre road

network to inform motorists in real-time of the availability of parking spaces in each of five distinctive colour-coded zones and several car parks. The information will give the drivers confidence to accept the guidance information, dissuade them from approaching full car-parks and thereby reduce congestion and minimise queuing.

Nottingham's road network is managed through the TCC. Under the new system, data will be fed from the car park operators to the TCC and then onto variable message signs. The TCC is managing interactive parking signs, and it will be set up to monitor the new zones and provide internet displays of car parking availability.

Cllr Jane Urquhart, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Area Working at Nottingham City Council (pictured) said; 'Nottingham City Council is the first city in the UK to integrate parking signing which will make it easier for people visiting the city as well as cutting congestion and parking queues'.

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Essex extends network of traffic information signs

Further demonstrating the successful long-term partnership with Siemens, Essex County Council continues to upgrade and increase the number of variable message signs (VMS) on key inter-urban routes across the county. The programme forms part of Essex's traffic management strategy to communicate incident, accident and journey time information direct to the travelling public.

According to Essex County Council's Liz Saville, ITS and Congestion Manager, the additional signs from Siemens represent further progress in making travelling in Essex more comfortable and convenient. 'VMS enables the display of non-traffic incident information such as safety messages as well as major incident information to the travelling public at strategic locations. VMS supplements other information sources prior to decision points on the network in order to reduce traveller

journey times and minimise the impact of congestion on the environment' she said.

Enabling improved traffic management of a network dominated by three radial road and rail corridors into London: the M11, the A12 and the A13/A127 corridors, the new signs are being supplied and installed by Siemens at several key locations on major urban roads, bringing the total number of VMS supplied by the company to over 20 in just five years.

Liz Saville added: 'Quite apart from meeting the Council's objectives and reducing congestion, the new signs from Siemens also make a significant contribution towards improving safety and helping to reduce carbon emissions. Better informed drivers are able to re-route as a result of journey-time and incident information provided by VMS.



Furthermore, incident awareness will not only reduce the impact of congestion on the network but also the likelihood of secondary accidents. The provision of weather information to drivers where conditions are considered hazardous such as fog and ice on roads, is also a benefit'.

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Overseas

Siemens wins order for new rapid transit system in India



Delhi's new BRT system in operation

A major contract has been placed with Siemens by DIMTS (Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Limited) on behalf of the local Transport Department for the development of the city's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. The order is for the supply of design services and the installation of a significant range of intelligent traffic signalling equipment including Extra Low Voltage controllers and associated technology for 20 junctions. Additional equipment and services being supplied includes the provision of a new Central Control Room with Urban Traffic Control (UTC) and SCOOT, over 600 traffic and pedestrian signals, around 350 above-ground detectors, a supply of nearside push-button units for pedestrian crossings and a long-term maintenance contract.

On behalf the company responsible for placing the contract, DIMTS confirmed that Siemens had won the contract for the BRT corridor from Ambedkar Nagar to Delhi Gate (length 14.5km). 'In addition to offering a highly comprehensive and technically-robust capability, Siemens provides a reliable range of innovative and sustainable products and services. This gives us great confidence as we develop the next stages of the BRT to meet the increasing needs for mobility with economic growth and for the benefit of the growing volume of people travelling in and around our city'.

Delhi is emerging as a hub for all kinds of commercial activities. According to a recent study, it is projected that Delhi

and its satellite towns will be among the most densely populated cities in the world by 2020. The transportation network in Delhi is predominantly road based and the number of private vehicles on Delhi's road is increasing at a phenomenal rate. Around 46% of total personal trips in Delhi were completed by using the public transport system (bus and metro) in 2007-08.

To attract a larger number of bus passengers, the BRT system is designed to provide a reliable and good quality public transportation system, offering better mobility, and other social advantages such as reducing congestion and air pollution. In total, Delhi Government plans to build 26 BRT corridors, covering a total length of 310 km by 2020.

Crossing over to lower voltage

A bulk order for the supply and installation of both Low Voltage and Extra Low Voltage (ELV) pedestrian controllers for Cyprus has been placed with Siemens on behalf of the island's Public Works Department (PWD).



According to PWD officials, the new pedestrian controllers are required for both new and replacement sites across the island. Over 80 new pedestrian controllers including 15 total ELV solutions underline a commitment to support sustainable solutions which help reduce carbon emissions and power consumption. The Cyprus Ministry of Communications and Works is planning to replace all the old traffic signal equipment currently operating on street with new low voltage equipment. Work will commence in 2010 and be completed by 2012 according to PWD officials.

The newly launched Siemens ST 350 pedestrian controller was selected by Cyprus PWD as it is fully compliant to the technical specifications set out in the tender documents. In addition to pedestrian controllers, Cyprus PWD has also placed an order for LED push button units and LED near side signals, both being installed on the island's streets for the first time.

The latest order follows the recent Urban Traffic Control (UTC) upgrade to Siemens PC SCOOT on the island and the provision of ongoing software support to Cyprus for the next 5 years. The recent upgrade which was successfully completed in June included the latest PC SCOOT software and hardware as well as the supply of Microsimulation software.

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Heimdall measures up



Heimdall, Siemens new radar based above ground detector, has successfully completed its comprehensive on-street testing and proved to give reliable detection for both MOVA and SCOOT applications. The trials in both controlled test and on-street installations demonstrated that the Heimdall units perform favourably when compared to traditional loop detectors.

A review of the performance of Heimdall is the subject of a detailed presentation by the company's Head of Product Management, Keith Manston at this month's JCT Symposium and copies of the paper are available on request. 'Heimdall has measured up very well against loops', he concludes, 'however correct installation is important to ensure optimum performance.'

Developed by Siemens and using advanced 24GHz radar technology, Heimdall offers all the benefits of above-ground detection. The detector offers high performance, simple installation and low on-going maintenance, while its small size ensures that unnecessary street clutter is minimised.

At the heart of each detector is a technologically-advanced planar radar antenna system and a sophisticated digital signal processing engine. These incorporate patented features that enable Heimdall to offer excellent count and occupancy performance as well as good 'gap' detection capabilities, ideal for SCOOT and MOVA applications.



'Unlike some vision-based systems, Heimdall's radar technology is totally immune to light level changes and the effect of shadows, and will work equally well in bright and totally dark locations. Similarly, the effects of fog and rain, which can severely affect the performance of vision-based systems, go largely unnoticed when Heimdall is deployed, ensuring the best possible performance of the road network, whatever the conditions,' added Manston.

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Kevin Jones, Product Sales Manager

New Product Sales Manager

Earlier this year, Kevin Jones (pictured) joined the product sales team. Based in Poole, Kevin is focused on the promotion of camera based technology including ANPR, Telscan CCTV and bus lane enforcement solutions.

'I am very pleased to be returning to an industry that was very much a part of my formative years and one where technology has an ever increasing role to play.'

Commenting on his new role, Kevin said: 'I am very pleased to be returning to an industry that was very much a part of my formative years and one where technology has an ever increasing role to play.'

After starting his career with Plessey as an engineering apprentice, Kevin spent several years in design roles. More recently, he's held various technical sales and management positions with other leading electronic manufacturing organisations before returning to Traffic Solutions.

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LaneHawk approved for operation

Launched at Traffex earlier this year (Streets Ahead, April 2009), the first installation of LaneHawk in Reading has now been approved by the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA), on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport.



Based on Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology, Siemens LaneHawk is the first unattended, digital system to obtain manufacturer's approval status, and since going live in Reading the new fully-automated, bus lane enforcement system has captured on average 21 offences per day.

According to Elizabeth Round, representing Reading County Council, LaneHawk is operating well on the Southcote Road site, a notorious short cut for motorists heading into Reading on weekdays during the morning rush hour, resulting in significant congestion at the end of the bus lane when vehicles try to re-enter the main traffic.

'LaneHawk enables us to automatically detect violations for a specific timetable period of 75 minutes only each morning, and the current number of appeals is very low at just 6%, thanks to the quality of the LaneHawk evidential images which form part of every penalty charge notice,' she said.

Under provisions of the Civil Traffic Enforcement Certification of Approved Devices legislation, VCA certification enables Siemens to install and commission systems without the need for Enforcement Authorities to seek further approval from the VCA.

This removes the requirement for Enforcement Authorities to provide detailed technical construction file information to the VCA, reducing the cost of implementation and the time taken to start enforcing bus lanes. Siemens simply have to register each new LaneHawk system with the VCA.

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Testing times

The MultaRadar S780 safety camera, a new fixed radar-based digital system that offers enhanced flexibility and functionality over existing legacy wet-film cameras, was introduced earlier this year. The new equipment has been on trial in a number of sites pending Home Office approval.

On behalf of the Dorset Safety Camera Partnership, Mark Armstrong commented: 'the test site in Poole is being used to evaluate the performance of remotely sending violations to the back-office and enforcing traffic in both directions, both features will help to improve the effectiveness of safety camera enforcement.'

According to Sussex Safer Roads Camera Partnership's Project Manager, Ken Seymour, the test site on the A24 forms part of the Home Office and ACPO official testing programme.

Once approved by the Home Office, the latest digital camera technology coupled with Siemens service capabilities, will offer safety camera partnerships an additional option for upgrading existing analogue systems.

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Photo: Bournemouth Echo

Siemens short-listed for excellence award

Following European Foundation of Quality Management (EFQM) assessments aimed at improving business performance, Traffic Solutions has been short-listed as a finalist in the British Quality Foundation Southern Excellence Awards 2009. Organisations from across the South compete in this event for recognition of their achievements within the excellence model.

The EFQM excellence model measures business performance against a range of criteria. It can be applied to all organisations – public and private sector companies, professional bodies and charities – and produces a score that allows comparisons to be made across industries.


The winner will be announced at a ceremony in October.

Business Improvement and Diversity Manager Lindsey Turnbull said: 'Using the EFQM model we can identify our strengths and weaknesses and use this information to develop improvements for the future; helping us to create more successful businesses.'



'In the end, whatever score we achieve, the important thing is that a commitment to EFQM is a commitment to improve. If we take all feedback on board and work hard on areas of weakness we will be getting better as a company.'

Managing Director, Gordon Wakeford added: 'Being short-listed is a great result for Traffic Solutions and we have learnt a considerable amount about improving the way we work through the process.'

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On call, 24/7

Customers are reminded that the Traffic Solutions contact centre is operating around the clock enabling you to speak directly with one of our operators whenever you call to report faults. In addition, working with the field service engineers live allows for more real-time information to be captured from the field and communicated to you.

The contact centre can be reached by calling either 0845 193 0004 (for Poole) or 0845 193 0005 (for Droitwich). These numbers automatically re-direct your call depending on the time and day to the appropriate on duty team.

In future, the contact centre will introduce call recording. This will not only give us the capability to monitor our service and responsiveness, but it will also provide significant training opportunities, allowing us to target individuals who require additional training as well as using real call scenarios to identify and instigate further improvements.



 contact.stc@siemens.com

Stop press

Provisional dates and venues for the Retrofit Roadshow workshops are:

Monday 16th November:
Taunton

Tuesday 17th November:
Tewkesbury and Stafford

Wednesday 18th November:
Wigan and Wakefield

Thursday 19th November:
Chesterfield and Peterborough

Friday 20th November:
Reading

Further details will be available soon. To register your interest, email: trafficwebmaster.stc@siemens.com

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