

Above-ground SCOOT detectors are no longer a myth

Interest in Heimdall, Siemens' new above-ground detector, has exceeded all expectations, according to Keith Manston, Head of Product Marketing, who introduced the new product at the company's recent round of technology solutions seminars.

Six local authorities are now participating in trials to confirm how well Heimdall measures up in SCOOT and MOVA applications when compared with traditional loop detectors. The findings, said Keith, are very promising.

So far, the data also shows that thanks to Heimdall's advanced 24GHz radar technology, the detector is largely immune to changing weather conditions. "Come rain, sun, snow or fog, it always sees traffic clearly," commented Keith. "This places it above many vision-based systems, which are susceptible to the vagaries of the weather."

"This high performance will obviously be very attractive to traffic managers, especially as Heimdall can be installed

without having to place loops in the road, meaning fewer delays for motorists and lower installation costs for local authorities."

Keith also explained the added features that have made Heimdall such an instant hit: "These detectors offer simple installation and low ongoing maintenance, while their small size ensures that unnecessary street clutter is minimised."

SCOOT and MOVA

Operating in a 'side fire' configuration, Heimdall is ideal for SCOOT and MOVA applications, and offers excellent count and occupancy performance as well as good 'gap' detection capabilities.

For optimum performance, the detector is mounted at a height of 4m, but it may be



mounted at a range of heights from 4m to 8m. Where dual-lane detection is needed, a second Heimdall unit may be mounted above the first to cover the second lane.

Simple installation

Heimdall detectors are supplied pre-configured with standard settings, which are suitable for the majority of installations. "However," added Keith, "they can be easily customised using simple configuration switch settings, which means you don't need to use expensive and vulnerable PC or PDA-based configuration tools."

Heimdall is the Watchman of the Gods in Norse mythology. He requires less sleep than a bird and can see a hundred miles around him, by night as well as by day.

Raw count loop versus Heimdall above ground SCOOT detector

