Solar studs open road to brighter future after test success

INNOVATIVE active road studs have become the first in Europe to be tested to a new draft performance standard – paving the way for installation across the UK network.

Rennicks UK have achieved full Department for Transport (DfT) Type Approval for their SR-15 active road studs, which use LED and solar technology to create highly effective highway delineation shown to be far more effective than traditional retro-reflective studs.

And they did so by becoming the first EU company to meet both the existing road stud standard, BS EN1463-2, as well as a new draft standard, prEN1463-3 (Active Road Studs).

The DfT authorisation, which follows a year-long trial, is likely to have far-reaching implications in both Britain and further afield.

It opens a new door to local authorities and management contractors searching for cost-effective and sustainable ways to improve current delineation methods here in the UK.

John Swift, of Rennicks UK, hailed news of the approval as ‘hugely significant’ for the industry.

“We are the first company in Europe to have a product tested to the new draft standard and it’s a massive achievement,” he said.

“It gives authorities and contractors the assurance that our studs will meet all of the requirements laid down by the DfT.

“This is a development that opens up a whole new approach to highway delineation.

“Traditional retro-reflective studs have been something of a default method in the past, but this has given local authorities and management contractors the chance to change their thinking.”

The mandatory 12-month trial, which concluded in December last year, took place on the A1M in Durham thanks to help from management contractors A-one+.

An inspector from the British Standards Institution (BSi) attended during both installation and testing to ensure the studs met both standards.

Stuart Cordier, Operations Director of A-one+, was pleased with how the trial went and delighted by the results.

“The studs have made a big improvement to a busy stretch of main road,” he said. “They’ve made it much brighter and also safer by highlighting slow bends.

“It looks good and we’ve received quite a lot of positive feedback from road users, so I think these road studs are the future of highways improvement.”

LED Active Road Studs have been shown to enhance safety and be a more sustainable and economical method of delineation during night-time hours or inclement weather conditions.
Mr Swift added: “With an ever-increasing need to switch off street lights to save energy, safety is paramount and these high-performance studs provide the ideal solution as they’re proven to be visible at a distance of 1km – roughly 10 times that of a traditional retro-reflective stud.

“Their self-contained solar cells are charged by sunlight, require no maintenance at all and they’re made from 100 per cent polycarbonate, which stood up to 33,000 vehicles per day during the trial.

“Our solar studs are the brightest on the market as they have four LEDs (two bi-directional) which provide excellent luminance, combined with a 10-year lifespan.

“So not only are they safer and more sustainable than traditional methods, they have lower lifetime costs too.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

With more than 25 years’ experience, Rennicks UK is at the forefront of sign technology and design. Rennicks UK is part of the Rennicks Group, Ireland. Rennicks UK provide industry-leading solutions available across the UK, with innovative and time proven products, highly trained staff, efficient service delivery and excellent customer value. Customers include the Department for Transport, Highways Agency, national and local government contractors. They are a major provider to the emergency services and Network Rail.

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