

Siemens UTC introduced by Peterborough

In partnership with leading engineering and design consultants Atkins, Peterborough City Council has introduced a new Urban Traffic Control (UTC) system supplied and installed by Siemens to improve its management of the traffic network around the city. The aim is to reduce the amount of time motorists spend waiting at traffic lights to cut congestion, improve journey times and reduce CO² emissions.

Enabling existing roadside equipment to be upgraded, Siemens' proven PC SCOOT will initially monitor traffic flows and react to congestion by adjusting traffic signals at 10 junctions on two busy routes into the city and over time UTC will be extended to monitor other strategic routes and up to 120 junctions, as part of the council's 3 year ITS strategy with Atkins. The development programme has also included the introduction of a traffic management control room as well as the installation of a fibre-optic network aimed at minimising communications costs and with the potential for being rolled-out across the city in the future.

Commenting on the ITS strategy in partnership with Peterborough, Andrew Holt, Project Director, Intelligent Transport Systems for Atkins said, 'Peterborough has a number of strategic routes which feed into the city and it was identified that the introduction of various ITS systems would assist in its management of the network and promotion of other transport forms. The city already has a Real Time Passenger Information system'.

PC SCOOT offers users numerous benefits, including ease of use, simple installation and migration, and reduced equipment and maintenance costs, all operating on a PC. The advanced features reduce maintenance requirements and provide more opportunities for implementing a range of traffic control solutions.

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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. As the system expands operators will be able to monitor and manage traffic flows allowing the operators to react to events such as road accidents, road works and other planned events by adjusting traffic signal timings to reduce traffic congestion. In addition, above ground detection is provided by wireless technology.

Peterborough Councillor Peter Hiller, cabinet member for neighbourhoods, housing and community development, said: 'The system from Siemens is similar to others used in major towns and cities across the UK which are shown to improve journey times by between eight and twelve per cent.

'As the city grows it is essential our roads are able to cope with an increase in traffic. This system will improve traffic flow and reduce congestion on two key routes into the city centre from the south of Peterborough.'

David Farquhar, head of environment, transport and engineering for Peterborough City Council, added: 'The new system from Siemens will allow us to manage traffic levels far more effectively and use information passed to us about traffic levels to tailor the traffic signals to give motorists a smoother journey in and out of the city centre'.

About Siemens in the UK

Siemens was established in the United Kingdom 166 years ago and now employs 18,402 people in the UK. Last year's revenues were £3.7 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

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