



## Better transport through technology

### December 2008 Newsletter

#### News from ITS United Kingdom

**Welcome** to new Foundation Members **Emtelle** ([www.emtelle.com](http://www.emtelle.com)) and Corporate Members **PTI Cymru** ([www.traveline-cymru.info](http://www.traveline-cymru.info))

**Thank you** to **Detica** for hosting a meeting of the Women in ITS Interest Group

#### **ITS United Kingdom Calendar**

Wednesday 28 January	<b>Enforcement Interest Group</b> – Mouchel, West Byfleet
Tuesday 3 March	<b>Public Sector Liaison Group</b> – Highways Agency, Bristol
Tuesday 10 March	<b>President's Dinner</b> – London EC2

#### ITS (UK) Interest Group news

**The Passenger Information Interest Group** held its London autumn seminar in the City on 26 November. The Seminar heard from experts from the University of Westminster, NRES, Egis Mobilité, ATOC, Atkins and WSP, on a range of topics related to passenger information, journey planning, and ticketing. The presentations are available from ITS United Kingdom. The Group is led by Dr Chris Qerée of ATOC with Yuelin Liang of Egis Mobilité as Honorary Secretary.

**The Women in ITS Interest Group** was invited by the Women in Transportation Seminar's London Chapter to a Christmas reception at the Institute of Civil Engineers early in December, where many useful new contacts were made. The WITS have also met as the guests of Detica to discuss its plans for 2009, which include inviting high level speakers to address the group, and holding a networking and social event later in the year.

**The PSLG Meeting at Telent** offices in Warwick on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008 discussed, amongst other topics, a number of ongoing and completed consultations. Current consultations include the DfT consultation on the Report 'Major Road Network in Great Britain - the network of motorways', the Ofcom Consultation to draft regulations to exempt the use of vehicle based safety related applications of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System - Consultation on planning for 2014 and beyond' and 'Road Safety Compliance'. In recent months PSLG has completed the following consultation submissions: '**Graduated Fixed Penalties, Financial Penalty Deposit and Immobilisation Schemes**' (DfT), 'Inquiry into VOSA's Enforcement Activities' and the 'Inquiry into taxes and charges on road users' (both for the Transport Select Committee). In addition two consultation reports have been

submitted – ‘Transposing “Eurovignette” EU HGV directive into UK law’ and ‘Amendments to EU “Eurovignette” HGV charging directive’. The group was also updated on progress on government liaison including the Evening Reception at the Houses of Parliament as well as the input to the DfT on the Technical Framework Workshop. Recent Workshops on ‘Is our Toolkit fit for purpose’ and Procurement were discussed as was the recent POSTnote Consultation - a quarterly Parliamentary briefing document on the current state of a particular technology circulated to all Members of Parliament. The anticipated circulation of the ‘Managed motorways’ consultation report was also discussed. PSLG will meet four times during 2009 - dates and venues have been listed.

### **News from Members**

**Correction** – The **Redspeed** and **Satelllic** news items in the November Newsletter should have been credited to the daily World Congress e-updates published by **ITS International Magazine**.

### **TRL Software Channel Expands into America and Canada**

TRL has announced that Ourston Traffic Solutions Inc, an Ourston Roundabouts company based in America and Canada, has joined its expanding partner network to provide local sales and support for TRL’s roundabout design software, ARCADY CE. ARCADY CE (Congestion Eliminator) is a new version of the world renowned ARCADY roundabout design software that has been subject to specific development targeted at the American and Canadian markets. Ourston Roundabouts already provide expert design and analysis for the creation and planning of roundabouts and the addition of ARCADY CE will build on their existing great service of providing complimentary products. Ourston Traffic Solutions will promote, resale, support and will be the first Authorized Training Centre to train traffic engineers in ARCADY CE outside of the UK. ARCADY was developed as a result of research in the UK market, (known as the home of roundabouts), but now has specific features tailored to assist the overseas user such as analysis viewed as a value in the Highways Capacity Manual Level of Service. TRL

### **PIPS Technology - Description of Success**

Philips Collection Services, recently acknowledged as the UK’s largest privately owned revenue recovery and Enforcement Company, has chosen PIPS Automatic Number Plate Technology to help locate the vehicles of individuals with unpaid debts. PIPS have equipped Philips’ vans with the latest ANPR cameras and software. The Philips vans are fitted with dual PIPS P362 cameras (infrared and colour overview), a PC running PAGIS (PIPS ANPR Graphic Interface System) and ANPR software, controlled by a touch screen display. Philips now has 60 cameras deployed throughout the UK.



A hot list of vehicle number plates is loaded onto the PAGIS database beforehand (for example via USB) and is used to locate debtors. The ANPR cameras capture number plates and cross-checks them against the database. Once a match is made, known as a hit, a signal is sent to the back office system, where a server with mapping software can determine the exact location of the vehicle to be clamped or towed. GPS and mapping software is built into the vans to allow the target to be located and GPRS technology is used to send relevant data and exact co-ordinates to PIPS back-office system. Philips took the decision to upgrade to the superior PIPS system after a number of high profile contract wins. Firstly Philips were awarded the lucrative contract for the collection of all unpaid Parking Charge Notice's (PCN'S) for Westminster Council, followed by the award of the contract for Camden Council. Westminster Council hands out the highest number of PCN's out of all of the metropolitan boroughs. When Philips won this contract CEO Nick Bradley, knew that he would need a system that could keep up. Nick said, "Philips is dealing with around 10,000 cases every month, so we knew we would have to upgrade our ANPR system.

PIPS Technology's Managing Director, Paul Negus said "I was delighted when Philips approached us to assist them with their new contract wins. PIPS have always been at the forefront of enforcement technology and with our cameras in the vans Philips are noticing an improved level of debt recovery. I truly hope that this relationship will last long into the future as both of our companies expand".

#### **TRL Software Release TRANSYT VISSIM Link Software**

Following a development announcement in late September TRL Software are excited to say that TRANSYT VISSIM\* Link Software is now shipping! Recently demonstrated at PTV's User Group conference in Germany, and following a success full beta roll out to some "hardcore" TRANSYT13 users, TRL have completed work on the *first release* of this innovative product. Hot on the heels of TRANSYT 13, released in May this year, TRL's experts have developed this link to automate the manual process by importing VISSIM data into TRANSYT 13. It then uses the TRANSYT signal optimiser in conjunction with the VISSIM model to produce an optimum set of signal timings. TRANSYT includes two sophisticated traffic models: the Platoon Dispersal Model (PDM) and Cell Transmission Model (CTM). These models are quick to set up and fast to run, making it easy to set up a TRANSYT network from scratch, optimise signals and obtain good results very rapidly. Micro-simulations offer a way to model highly complex networks and other scenarios with a high degree of realism. However, they usually rely on the user to input their own timings, which can be a time consuming and difficult process.

#### **Siemens Signs Valued Partners to New Civil Scheme**

In the first year since the launch of the Siemens Valued Partner Scheme, the company has awarded over 30 civil contracting companies Valued Partner status, further underlining the growing level of business underway with developers and construction companies across the UK. Based on partners' spend levels in each financial year, the total value of the schemes in which Siemens is involved with is estimated at around £7 million. Awarded Gold standard in recognition of UK-wide traffic technology schemes with a total value in excess of £500,000 during 2007/2008\*, Enterprise is one of the most recently assigned partner companies. Endorsing the Siemens Valued Partner Scheme, Keith Martin, Development Director – Transport division at Enterprise, commented: 'We have worked with the team at Siemens for many years and, utilising the principles of supply chain partnering. We have collaborated successfully to continually provide optimal solutions for our customers that add value by increasing flexibility, reducing

costs and enhancing quality. We will continue to work proactively with the team at Siemens to develop the range of best value products and services we can provide to existing and future customers.

Our relationship with Siemens is important to us and to our customers - the award of the Gold standard is a fitting demonstration of the success of our relationship." Five Gold standards have been presented to Carillion, Birse Civils Limited, May Gurney Ltd, Raynesway Construction and Enterprise. Meanwhile, Silver awards for schemes over £200,000 per year have been presented to 12 civil contracting customers and Bronze awards for schemes over £100,000 per year have been presented to 17 civil contracting customers. Sales Manager, Chris Cheesman, says the scheme has proved popular with the company's most valued partners and proves that many schemes include infrastructure works and orders for traffic technology. 'We offer unrivalled support and advice from the company on all traffic or related enquiries as well as better rates for multiple scheme orders. Importantly certification to the scheme enables our



valued partners to demonstrate a proven record of working with traffic technology when tendering for any future business', he said. In Kent and Sussex, the Siemens Valued Partner Scheme is also in evidence. In October, the company commenced a signal head replacement programme on behalf of InterRoute, a joint venture between construction company Balfour Beatty and consultancy firm Mott MacDonald Limited. As one of InterRoute's 'key supply chain partners', Siemens is replacing Halogen lamps with LED in almost 200 signal heads at over 50 major junctions. LEDs last up to five times longer but use one third less power than Halogen lamps, offering improved safety and cost savings. In addition, the company already provides contract maintenance and collaborates on regular improvement schemes. InterRoute's Safe Roads Manager, Paul Thompson commented: 'we value our good working relationship with Siemens which is based on products of the highest quality and the ability to meet the demands of the Highways Agency, cost-effectively and efficiently'. Working with the Highways Agency, InterRoute maintains and operates all motorway and strategic trunk roads in Kent and Sussex, known as Highways Agency area number 4.

### **Mott MacDonald helps BAA launch UK's first live integrated travel system at Southampton Airport.**

Mott MacDonald and fellow ITS (UK) Members airport operator BAA have launched the first live integrated travel system to be used at a UK airport. Passengers arriving at Southampton Airport are the first in the UK to benefit from an integrated travel display system of this kind, designed by Mott MacDonald to provide live updates on transport networks across the south. Five screens located throughout the airport's main terminal building help passengers as they embark upon their onward journeys by giving them the latest bus, rail, ferry and road information, including incident alerts. Mott MacDonald was appointed as system designer and project manager for the



scheme after BAA identified a need to enhance the accessibility and level of information available to its passengers. Mott MacDonald's project manager, James Mead explained, "Mott MacDonald's Transport Technology Services team was asked to design a bespoke system that would suit the requirements of Southampton Airport, one of the busiest regional airports in the UK and a transport hub for the south.



The technology we developed builds on existing integrated systems used for collating and monitoring traffic and transport data, however in this context the information is drawn from several disparate sources, including Highways Agency CCTV and Southampton Airport Parkway train station timetables. The challenge was to design a system that would interrogate and integrate all the separate travel systems and find a way of presenting it in an easily digestible, centralised format on LCD screens at the airport." The £50,000 system uses proprietary software to obtain live data feeds through the internet from the Highways Agency, South West Trains, Red Funnel and information for local bus services from the city's ROMANSE system\*, which then automatically updates the information on the screens. The data is presented via a Java application, which in turn is made into a presentable format using Adobe Flex, all designed in-house by Mott MacDonald. James Mead continued, "The resulting design allows passengers to view a continuous, live overview of

the status of local transport systems, including rail information and motorway CCTV. The new display screens will vastly improve the experience of the travelling public as they pass through Southampton Airport - they're a great example of how low-cost technology can be deployed to significantly improve a public service." The Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP formally unveiled the new system at a launch event attended by local dignitaries and project team members on Friday 28th November 2008. As system designer for the project, Mott MacDonald was responsible for the computer system design and graphic design for the display screen presentation, as well as providing project management services for the design and system installation process.

### International News

#### **Smart Environment Interest Group Special Session at the World Congress: The Role of ITS Technologies in Energy Conservation and Emissions Reductions**

After nearly a year of planning, the ITS (UK) SEIG was delighted to welcome an audience of over 80 to its Special Session on the first afternoon of the Congress. The Session had been designed by the SEIG Chair, Professor Margaret Bell CBE of Newcastle University, and was chaired by Nick Hodges of Leicester City Council. The theme of the Session was the challenges of energy use and emissions which are reaching critical stages with the dwindling supplies of fossil fuels and the apparent impacts of global warming. While the potential value of ITS technologies to help mitigate these issues has long been discussed, little effort has been expended to explore this potential. The session provided insight into how ITS vehicle and infrastructure

applications can help reduce the levels of transport-related energy consumption and carbon emissions. Margaret had secured the services of an international panel of experts in order to address these topics:-

- Rod James of Hyder, who is the President of ITS New Zealand
- Professor Don Stedman of the University of Denver, Colorado
- Tim Gammons of Arup UK, who is also the Honorary Secretary of the SEIG
- Ian Patey of Mouchel

After the Session, Arup sponsored a very well attended reception on the ITS (UK) exhibition stand, to mark the success of the Smart Environment Interest Group in bringing the environmental benefits which ITS implementations can deliver, to the top of the ITS (UK) agenda.

### **ITS (UK) Exhibition Stand at the World Congress**

By joining with Scottish Development International, ITS (UK) was able to create a large and eye catching United Kingdom stand in the exhibition hall at the Congress.

ITS United Kingdom Members Department for Transport, Capita Symonds, Mapflow, TRL, Mott MacDonald, innovITS, Atkins, Arup, IT IS UK, Techspan, Transport for London, Mouchel and IBI Group all exhibited on the stand. There was also a Network Operator Area where Members the Highways Agency, Transport Scotland, Traffic Wales and Roads Service of Northern Ireland combined forces to provide visitors with a full picture of how the core network in the UK is managed and operated. Add to this the Scottish exhibitors, and it becomes evident that the UK had an



excellent profile in the exhibition. With seating, refreshments, and storage of belongings on continuous offer to Members, ITS (UK) staff was able to make sure that the stand was a base, meeting space, rest area and all round home from home for all the Members who came to New York. SDI organised a whisky tasting on the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup>, which provided an excellent networking opportunity and drew lots of other exhibitors and delegates to visit the stand.



Members of ITS (UK) were prominent in the Congress programme. John Craigen, Technical Director ITS & Traffic Engineering at Parsons Brinckerhoff, presented his paper entitled International Co-operation to Improve Traffic Incident Management and Congestion Management during

one of the Interactive Sessions. The paper focuses on a number of examples where government transportation agencies in the United States and Europe, including UK, have collaborated in knowledge exchange programmes to promote the benefits of a wider understanding of approaches, innovative technologies and practices in highway transportation systems.



**For more information about any of the items in this Newsletter,  
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