



## March 2008 Newsletter

Welcome to EC Harris [www.echarris.com](http://www.echarris.com) who have rejoined as Foundation Members, and to new Members the **University of Aberdeen** [www.aberdeen.ac.uk](http://www.aberdeen.ac.uk)

**Thank you** to Foundation Members **TRL** for hosting the Foundation Members Think Tank and the Council Meeting in early March, and for including an interesting tour of the facilities and latest equipment available on their site. Thank you also to Foundation Members the **University of Newcastle** for hosting an exploratory meeting regarding an Inclusive Mobility Interest Group, and to **ITS New Zealand** for allowing our Enforcement and Road User Charging Interest Groups to meet at New Zealand House.

### News from ITS United Kingdom

#### What's your favourite ITS implementation?

Following up on a slightly "bit of fun" idea put forward by the Chairman of ITS United Kingdom, Professor Eric Sampson, the Foundation Members of ITS (UK) were recently asked to nominate what they thought were the most significant and successful ITS implementation of the last five years or so. Sixteen nominations were received, and when collated and listed, one cluster of nominations stood out above the rest – those associated with the Highways Agency's National Traffic Control Centre (NTCC). The NTCC, opened by the then Transport Secretary Alistair Darling a little under two years ago, has been steadily rolling out new services and improving existing ones, and this has clearly made an impact on the ITS (UK) Membership. Members such as Serco, telent, IBI Group and others are of course heavily involved in the NTCC's work, but the appreciation of the NTCC's successes was evenly spread throughout the respondents to the survey. Nominations associated with the NTCC included "Real time strategic traffic information available from the NTCC and tactical operations from the RCCs", "Network state estimation/management (SERCO/NTCC)", "Traffic England website receiving 180 million hits a year making it the site of choice for information on the HA network" and "TTVMS (Travel Time Variable Message Signs)".

The runner-up in terms of numbers of nominations was the M42 Active Traffic Management (ATM) pilot, so a general appreciation of the Highways Agency, which by the way modestly refrained from using its position as a Foundation Member and nominating its own schemes, seems to be shared by ITS (UK)'s Members. Honourable mention also goes to the successful delivery of navigation systems suitable for non-professional drivers, to integral safety systems such as anti-collision in private cars, to the London Congestion Charge and its Western Extension, to the implementation of average speed enforcement technology, to the success of General Motors in the DARPA automated driving challenge, and to Transport Direct. It is interesting to see that only one commonly known public transport-related application was nominated, though TD of course also serves private car drivers, and all the HA's successful ITS schemes also serve the coaches which use the network. The bus-related effects of the London

Congestion Charge are of course also well known, with a great increase in bus numbers, miles travelled, and numbers of passengers since the start of the scheme. Thanks to Southampton University, TRL, Mouchel, Serco and Traffic Wales for taking part in an interesting as well as “fun” survey. Did our informal panel miss out any worthy ITS achievement, or nominate an undeserving scheme? Please write to [mailbox@its-uk.org.uk](mailto:mailbox@its-uk.org.uk) with your own views on the best and the rest.

### **Wales Interest Group**

This is a geographically defined Interest Group championed by Foundation Members Traffic Wales, and held its second meeting in Bridgend during March. This is ITS (UK)'s first group based on location rather than on type of application or technology, and its development will be very interesting to watch. Over 30 ITS United Kingdom Members and a small number of specially invited non-Members attended, and heard a large number of short presentations designed to stimulate further discussion and information exchange at the meeting and afterwards.

### **Think Tank for Foundation Members**

Foundation Members TRL hosted a combined **Think Tank** and Council meeting for ITS (UK) in early March. The Think Tank was designed to take forward the ideas from the very lively 2007 AGM, which have been worked into the 2008 business plan and are leading to a strengthening of the Society's profile.

### **Joint meeting of the Enforcement and Road User Charging Interest Groups**

The EIG and the RUCIG were able to meet in the Penthouse of New Zealand House, a stunning location, at the kind invitation of ITS New Zealand, and the venue on this occasion for a lively discussion on RUC interoperability, HOV enforcement, and cross border enforcement.

### **Inclusive Mobility Interest Group**

Simon Edwards of Foundation Members Newcastle University arranged an ITS (UK) meeting to coincide with the launch of the ASK-IT project. ASK-IT is a set of software services configured for individual users with mobility impairments. Services will be accessible through means including the Web, PDAs, mobile phones, and Internet kiosks. ASK-IT aims to draw on user experience to propose improved location-based and navigation services, as part of an array of digital services essential to community activities. The project's UK pilot site is in Tyne and Wear and its stakeholders include the Institute of Ageing and Health, Codeworks ATL, Gateshead Access Panel, RNIB, Tyne and Wear ICT, One North East, Government Office NE, transport operators, Cityspace, Sunderland Community Development Network, and Newcastle University (CENGEO, Medical, Culture Lab, ICCHS, Computing Science, Engineering). The purpose of the ITS (UK) meeting was to take further the suggestion of a special interest group for this topic, provisionally entitled the “**Inclusive Mobility Interest Group**”. Newcastle University is acting as the Champion for this proposal and through their work on ASK-IT, they are very well placed to fill this role. Delegates to the meeting were able to see the University's Virtual Reality suite, in the Informatics Research Institute, where some of the ASK-IT services are available to be tried out in a simulated street and public transport environment.

### **ITS United Kingdom Calendar**

1- 4 April

**ITS (UK) Stand** at Intertraffic, Amsterdam

Thursday 10 April

**Security Interest Group**, Detica, London WC2

Friday 11 April

Round-Table discussion: **Theft & Vandalism of Roadside Equipment - London EC1**

TRL Published Reports- **CURRENT TOPICS IN TRANSPORT**

**CT 96.4 Collision Avoidance Systems Update (2005 – 2007)**

**CT 28.5 GIS in transport update (2005-2007)**

**PPR252 Survey of MOVA and SCOOT operation at M42 Junction 6 by K Wood, M Crabtree, A Kirkham, A Maxwell and R Robbins**

### **News from ITS United Kingdom Members**

#### **Cityspace to provide Merseyrail with Passenger Services at Unstaffed Stations**

Cityspace has announced that it has been awarded the contract by Merseyrail to install complete customer information and services networks at the five unstaffed stations in the Wirral along this vital urban network serving Liverpool and Merseyside. Merseyrail manages 66 stations along the 75 route mile network accounting for some 30 million passenger journeys a year. Whilst it has the highest percentage of staffed stations in the country, Merseyrail is committed to providing passengers travelling from the few unstaffed lightly used stations with information, services and security to improve the waiting experience. The planned services for Little Sutton, Bache, Capenhurst, Overpool and Ellesmere Port in the Wirral will comprise seven Cityspace Smart Points providing ticketing and critically, Permit to Travel. Interactive touch screens will offer access to real-time passenger information, online journey planning, timetables, local area maps with print outs and customised digital travel content. Each unit features a highly visible broadcast screen for live bus and rail departure summaries, planned engineering notices and publicity content. As an added feature to address passenger safety an emergency help point has been fitted to each unit. The services at the two-platform stations will be built on a wireless backhaul providing the real-time data feed to the terminals whilst creating a flexible infrastructure for CCTV delivering asset protection and personal safety. The Wirral networks are scheduled to go live by May 2008. Rail plays a major role in the economic life of the region in view of the regeneration of Liverpool and getting people to events related to the Liverpool being the European capital of Culture in 2008. For further information, please contact: Sophia Henri Cityspace PR TEL: +44 (0)20 7313 8428

EMAIL: [Sophia.henri@cityspace.com](mailto:Sophia.henri@cityspace.com) [www.cityspace.com](http://www.cityspace.com)

#### **telent helps Schools Travel Wisely in the West Midlands 04 March 2008**

telent has announced the launch of an innovative, new School TravelWise website, [www.schooltravelwise.org.uk](http://www.schooltravelwise.org.uk), for pupils, parents and staff in the West Midlands area. The website, produced for the West Midlands Local Authorities in association with Coventry based Maple Systems, aims to reduce traffic congestion during the school run by promoting greener and healthier methods of travel to and from school. Using the new School TravelWise website schools are able to have their own web pages providing direct links to real-time travel information such as train and bus departures, walking and bus journey planners. This provides advice to parents and pupils of alternative routes to school, cycling routes and other modes of transport. The website also enables schools to provide additional information such as after school clubs and activities with journey planner links to get you there on time. "telent is very proud to be part of this pioneering website." said Peter Eccleson, General Manager of Roads and Highways at telent. "The School TravelWise website will enable schools to provide a more flexible and efficient means of travel for pupils, parents and staff."

### **Hampshire chooses Cityspace to deliver transport step change**

Members Hampshire County Council has selected Members Cityspace to help deliver improved, sustainable transport services in Hedge End; a crucial development area in the county. With funding granted from the Dept of Local Government and Communities' New Growth Point Bid, Hants County Council aims to develop and promote sustainable transport in Hedge End. The area has undergone substantial growth across residential, leisure, business and retail in recent years. Much of this is a reflection of its prime location; good links to the M27 and road networks to Southampton, Winchester and the South Coast. There is now a need for a high quality infrastructure to help stimulate modal shift, encourage operators to improve services and accommodate the ongoing development in the region and the Growth Point. To this end, Cityspace is installing a network of 24 Smart Help Points providing links to Traveline, for new users and visitors to the area; 24 multimedia Smart Screens delivering real-time and other valuable information within new high quality bus shelters; three Smart Columns sited at key hubs, such as transport interchanges, retail and development areas and BusTV, offering rich media format for travel information and local news. "We've enjoyed a successful partnership with Cityspace to date," reflects Tony Brown, Principal Engineer, ITS, Hampshire County Council. "This important development at Hedge End offers the opportunity to expand the existing networks and assess the benefits of intensive deployment in a concentrated area." "With this high profile project, we're really raising the bar. We really needed a supplier with a shared ethos for delivering the highest quality solutions and we're in no doubt that Cityspace will rise to the challenge." The rolling programme of deployments is scheduled for completion this summer. For further information, please contact: Sophia Henri as above.

### **Ruth Kelly Opens First Motorway Car Share Lane**

The UK's first motorway car share lane has been opened by Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly, giving drivers a new opportunity to cut both their journey times and carbon footprints. The 1.7-mile lane, built by the Highways Agency, links the southbound M606 near Bradford to the eastbound M62 towards Leeds. It is open to cars and taxis with two or more occupants, as well as buses and coaches, and bypasses the notoriously congested section where the two motorways merge. The new lane will save road users an average of six to eight minutes per journey - 30-40 minutes per week for regular commuters. Ruth Kelly said: "This new lane offers motorists the opportunity to reduce both their journey times and their carbon footprints. Currently, four out of five vehicles using this busy junction have only one occupant. I hope this new lane will encourage people to share their journeys, which will ease congestion, cut journey times and improve local air quality. "The Government is committed to finding innovative ways to get more from our existing roads and improving journeys for motorists. We have identified around 500 miles of motorway as potential priority sites for new traffic management measures, which may also include more car share lanes." The lane will allow vehicles on the M606 to bypass congestion at J26 of the M62 and gain priority entry on to the eastbound M62, which is a busy commuter route for motorists driving from Bradford towards Leeds. As the new lane creates extra capacity, other vehicles on the M606 and M62 could also benefit from improved journey times. It is open to cars, vans and taxis with two or more occupants. Minibuses, coaches and buses can also use the lane and motorcyclists will also be able to use it whether carrying passengers or not. The lane can be used by vehicles 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will be enforced by West Yorkshire Police. The new lane has been constructed on the hard shoulder of the M606 and M62 eastbound slip road, connected by a short stretch of new

carriageway. New lay-by areas have been provided as an emergency refuge facility for broken-down vehicles in place of the hard shoulder.

### **Norway gets first fully electronic Toll System with Efkon as Technology Supplier**

Together with Fenrits, a company of the EFKON group in Norway, EFKON AG will deliver CEN based microwave Multi Lane Free Flow Technology and the Optical Character Recognition system for the redesign and expansion of the Oslo Ring. The system was originally put into operation in 1990 and consists of 20 toll plazas that are



now to be changed over to Single-Lane and Multi-Lane-Free Flow. The start-up date is scheduled for 12th September 2008. To gain this contract, EFKON-FENRITS was able to give proof of technological leadership to meet key tolling requirements. Extremely high recognition system performance and a warranty for safety of transactions were the main points

which made Efkon the technology supplier of Tecsidel, the Spanish systems integrator who has been awarded the contract for the redesign of the strategically important, congested traffic management system around Oslo. EFKON CEO Dr. Helmut Rieder stated that he was very pleased with the new order, issued by the NPRA (Norwegian Public Roads Administration). He added, "Due to the weather conditions the electronic toll requirements are particularly difficult in Norway. Extreme lighting conditions, snow, and rain are the challenges of video enforcement systems. Our camera based OCR Systems (Optical Character Recognition) & CEN 5.8 GHz DSRC Microwave Systems showed a flawless performance during the entire test phase." Now the old manually operated toll booths are also becoming a thing of the past in Norway. The Multi-Lane Free Flow Toll System ensures unimpeded traffic flow at the entries and exits. Emissions harmful to the environment and accident risks are considerably reduced. There is no need for motorists to stop and pay toll, payment is now fully electronic by means of automatic vehicle recognition either by in-car OBUs or via video enforcement of the license plates.

### **Government invests £8 million in New Transport Technology Research**

Three ground-breaking research projects aimed at improving transport services have been awarded more than £8m as part of a joint initiative by the Technology Strategy Board, Foundation Members Department for Transport, and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The three projects, which will see innovative British companies working collaboratively with academic institutions and network

operators, have been awarded the funding through the Government's Future Intelligent Transport Systems initiative.

The three successful projects selected to share the £8m investment are: FREEFLOW, which aims to benefit both transport users and operators by improving the use of transport data. Rather than simply being told there is a queue on a particular road, drivers want to know how to avoid it while network managers want to know why it is there and how to reduce it. The project will develop tools from innovations already used outside the transport community - such as military "situation awareness" tools - to allow better data manipulation, providing this more intelligent and useful information. This will help to improve safety, reduce congestion and protect the environment in York and London, where the project is based, and demonstrate the benefits to a wider audience. Foot-LITE which is designed to encourage safer more environmentally-friendly driving styles and behaviours through the development of better driver/vehicle interface systems and services. The project aims to develop products which give drivers information - for example via an in-vehicle display system - that will help them to drive in a way that is safer, cuts congestion and reduces emissions and other negative environmental impacts. The User Innovation project, which will address the underpinning theme of the FITS programme by looking at users of the transport system as a source of inspiration, the project will investigate how transport users are already using existing forms of information communication technology (ICT) to enhance transport systems - such as workers using email to organise and manage car-sharing clubs. It will then be possible to identify, develop and exploit new opportunities for existing technologies and services to address challenges facing transport systems and users. The Future Intelligent Transport Systems initiative is part of the Technology Strategy Board-managed Intelligent Transport Systems and Services Innovation Platform. This brings together Government, business and academia to better understand the UK's key transport issues, and how innovation and new technology can be best used to provide solutions to major transport challenges, such as congestion, pollution and road safety.

Freeflow includes ITS (UK) Members Transport for London, ACIS, QinetiQ, and Imperial College London. Foot-LITE includes Members MIRA Ltd, Hampshire County Council, the IAM, Transport for London, Sussex Police and the Universities of Southampton and Newcastle. The partners in User Innovation include Members Ordnance Survey.

### **Siemens hit the Road again with Traffic Technology Seminars**

Building on its successful series of regional traffic technology seminars around the UK over the past seven years, Siemens Traffic Controls is once again hosting a programme of presentations for local authority representatives, consultants and traffic engineers. During May this year, the company is staging seven technology events in Leeds, Glasgow, Oxford, London, Preston, Bristol and Birmingham. To date, more than 1,000 delegates have attended the previous seminars. The events will provide attendees with an update on the latest developments in fields including extra low voltage signal technology, central systems, design and demand management as well as the company's approach to the growing emergence of civil engineering schemes. To receive further detailed information or to register for one of the events email:

**[trafficwebmaster.stc@siemens.com](mailto:trafficwebmaster.stc@siemens.com)** or visit **[siemenstraffic.com](http://siemenstraffic.com)**

**Can you think of a Title for this picture.....?  
Caption Competition.....**



**You could WIN a bottle of wine or a box of chocolate.  
Which one do you prefer?**

**Entries need to be received by Rachael on [rlouis@its-uk.org.uk](mailto:rlouis@its-uk.org.uk) by 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008.  
– Photo supplied by Darren Capes**

#### **International News**

##### **Network of National ITS Associations elects new Chairman.**

At its meeting in early March, the Network, which represents 28 European ITS associations, elected Nico Anten of Connekt (ITS Netherlands) as its new Chairman, replacing Christer Karlsson of ITS Sweden who had led the Network since its launch in 2004. Nico Anten came to ITS via the freight transport world. From a background in public administration and then a professional career in both IT and general consultancy, he discovered the fascinating world of freight transport and logistics. It was an interest that led him to the Centre for Transport Technology, an organisation that at the time was working with both government and the private sector to improve the quality of all things related to freight transport in Holland.



Over the years, the Centre merged with ITS Netherlands and developed into Connekt, linking the freight and logistics world with ITS and public transport. Reflecting on his new role in the Network, Nico said: "The big challenge is to find ways to create and sustain the mobility that is demanded for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and which will support our economic activities, and yet at the same time address the issues which threaten personal safety and security and the environment. ITS is a wonderful opportunity to form a bridge between these two topics. The bridge can be built via international co-operation. That is very important in the ITS and logistics markets. They both cross borders and that is why it is so important to have a network of nationally-based organisations trying to co-operate. The members behind the national associations have an outreach community of over 1500 very experienced, very talented ITS participants including people from national, regional and local government, industry, administrators, users, traffic experts, knowledge institutes and consultants. Visit [www.itsnetwork.org](http://www.itsnetwork.org)

**For more information about any of the items in this Newsletter,  
contact [mailbox@its-uk.org.uk](mailto:mailbox@its-uk.org.uk)**

**News from Members for inclusion in the April issue should be sent to  
[rlouis@its-uk.org.uk](mailto:rlouis@its-uk.org.uk)**

**Please distribute this Newsletter to all colleagues and contacts whom you think  
might be interested! Why not add it to your intranet?**