Information Provision to the Road User

Project Brief: Message Signs

Message Signs provide information on a variety of topics including safety, traffic and travel information.



BUSINESS OBJECTIVE

The provision of up-to-date and accurate information to the road user is a key priority of the Highways Agency. One way this can be achieved is through the provision of message signs.

Message signs are currently directly set by Stand Alone Controllers (SACs). However, it is the intention to integrate control of these Message Signs with the other Control Office systems as part of the Control Office Base Station (COBS) architecture.

IPL'S CONSULTING SUPPORT

The increasingly widespread use of motorway message signs was originally trialled along a section of the M25. IPL was appointed to assist with the trials. Our responsibilities included trials programme management, specification and procurement of an interim controller system for the signs, and supplier management through to commissioning of the system. IPL also developed the requirements specification for the message sign subsystem to integrate with the National Motorways Communication System (NMCS2) system.

IPL was subsequently selected to assist with the procurement of message sign subsystems for installation at a number of Police Control Offices. This involved supplier selection and management, through to installation and commissioning of the subsystem.

MANAGING THE PROCESS

IPL has participated in both high level consultancy and detailed technical consultancy on the message sign project.

THE OUTCOME

Message Signs are distributed along numerous sections of the motorway network and continue to provide vital information to road users.

IPL continues to work with the Highways Agency and its contractors on refinements, new developments and upgrades to message sign systems.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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