

## **AMG BOXES IN BIRMINGHAM'S MOTORWAYS**

***Uncompressed video monitoring system allows the Highways Agency's West Midlands Regional Traffic Control Centre a complete, real-time view of traffic flow around Birmingham's motorway box.***

17 February 2005 - AMG Systems, the world leading UK based manufacturer and supplier of optical fibre transmission systems for CCTV networks, has completed implementation of its Guardian™ 2800 system in the Birmingham Digital Ring motorway CCTV monitoring system.

Encircling Birmingham via the M5, M6 and M42 motorways ('The Birmingham Box'), the uncompressed video monitoring system allows the Highways Agency's Regional Traffic Control Centre a complete, real-time view of traffic flow around the West Midlands region.

The new system was installed by Tyco Integrated Systems (TIS) as part of a £1.941 million project for the Highways Agency.

It supplants older point-to-point video links between the control rooms with a dual-fibre fibre optic ring carrying video, voice, low speed data and Ethernet. Each fibre is capable of transmitting live, full-bandwidth video images from 80 cameras, allowing up to 160 camera positions to be transmitted simultaneously from anywhere in the network.

The number of cameras that can be connected to the Network is effectively unlimited. Vitally, in the event of catastrophic damage to the fibre optic cable, the AMG equipment allows the video, data, audio and Ethernet signals to be routed in the other direction to maintain the video connectivity.

"This highly-developed system gives the Highways Agency an exceptional resource in their traffic management strategy", comments Alan Hayes, AMG's managing director. "Enabling every control room unrestricted access to live video streams from any of the 280 plus cameras gives a level of flexibility, insight and control that is crucial for traffic management around a major city like Birmingham."

The resilient self-healing capabilities built in to the system with the Guardian™ 2800 series are particularly relevant to 24-7-365 surveillance operations and are not achieved by sacrificing video quality. Unlike SDH, MJPEG and Video over IP solutions, Guardian does not compress the video signal making high-quality, real-time video to every desk a real possibility.

Commenting on behalf of TIS, Business Group Manager for Traffic Systems, Charles W. Hattersley adds, "Our work with AMG gives the motorways around Birmingham one of the best surveillance and management systems possible and we're sure that both the Highways Agency and motorists alike will see the benefits on these routes."

More than 280 cameras are currently installed around the Birmingham Box, with the number expected to exceed 700 eventually, and every individual camera feed is recorded and archived. As well as transmitting uncompressed live video, the AMG system uses the integrated Ethernet channels on the Guardian™ 2800 system to allow this recorded video material to be retrieved and viewed by any control room operator at any control room. It may also be used for the analysis of traffic patterns and future traffic planning.

Ian Harrison, senior traffic technology engineer for the Highways Agency says, "Using the fibre-optic system we have been able to double the amount of CCTV motorway monitoring in the West Midlands without the need to install additional cabling. This has reduced the amount of equipment required and, at the same time, improved how we can better manage traffic if the motorway is closed or if an incident occurs"

**About AMG Systems**

AMG Systems Ltd is the world's leading provider of fibre optic transmission equipment designed for CCTV surveillance operations. Carrying real-time, full-bandwidth video, audio and data signals, the company's equipment is installed on highways, tunnels, rail links, ports, airports and buildings around the globe to enhance safety and security for all users. As well as providing the most comprehensive and innovative range available in the market today, AMG's expertise is also exploited to produce high-quality custom fibre-optic video, audio and data transmission products for many multi-national companies. The company is located at Stratton Business Park, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 8QB. Further details can be found by logging on at [www.amgsystems.co.uk](http://www.amgsystems.co.uk).

**About Tyco Integrated Systems**

Tyco Integrated Systems' Transport and Traffic group specialises in complete CCTV systems for traffic management for motorways, trunk roads and tunnels as well as for city centres, shopping centres and urban areas. In addition to designing and installing integrated systems including cabling and control room equipment, the company also provides full maintenance and service contracts with a nationwide capability on any basis including guaranteed call out times for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The company's Wireless Solutions group provides innovative wireless systems for GSM enhancement, communications and radio re-broadcast for tunnels, underground rail network, airports, shopping centres, large buildings, etc. The Specialist Communications group provides fully integrated systems for public address, DECT, intercom, paging, lone worker communications including locations aware systems, RFID systems, etc.

**About The Highways Agency**

The Highways Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Transport, which manages, maintains and improves the network of trunk roads and motorways in England on behalf of the Secretary of State. It works closely with other transport operators and with local authorities to integrate the trunk road network with the rest of England's roads and other forms of transport.

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