CASE STUDY:

Setting a New Standard For Traffic Management

Traffic Group Signals celebrate the launch of the ground-breaking RadioConnect2 portable signal

In collaboration with:





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RadioConnect2

By listening to customers and designing a product that answers their needs, portable traffic light manufacturer Traffic Group Signals has created a next-generation solution that sets a new standard for traffic management.

When Traffic Group Signals asked its customers exactly what they wanted from portable traffic lights, the result was a ten-page report that landed on Operations Director Phil Hutchinson's desk more than two years ago. "We knew we wanted to improve on our traffic signals and that there was a need in the marketplace for something more sophisticated," says Hutchinson, whose company is part of The Traffic Group. "We had been working away in the background for quite some time, looking at how we could harness group technology to make a better product. This report helped us understand what customers really wanted."

Safety first

The result is the new RadioConnect2 (RC2) portable traffic light system, designed to sit alongside the EVO Multi system in the product portfolio, addressing a new, specific set of needs.

Perhaps from an industry point of view the most important customer concern addressed by RC2 is the safety of site staff. The need to have someone on site to adjust green times according to traffic-flow both morning and evening, in some cases remaining there all day, means staff are constantly exposed.

One of Traffic Group Signals's key customers, Go Traffic Management, helped with the live trials of RC2. Operations manager Richard Johnson welcomes the product's innovations which, he says, are nothing short of revolutionary.

"Our guys are often stood behind the lights, facing the traffic – sometimes for up to 12 hours at a stretch. Not only is it dangerous to stand in the traffic, but they also get physical and verbal abuse. RadioConnect2 reduces the need for manual monitoring, so we can avoid that. There's nothing else out there like it."

- Richard Johnson, Go Traffic Management



RadioConnect2's secret weapon is AutoGreen technology, which uses information from an advanced onboard radar sensor from AGD Systems to measure the amount of traffic queuing and automatically adjusts green times accordingly. It doesn't just protect staff though – it keeps motorists happy too. It's highly frustrating to be stuck on red at portable traffic lights when you can see there's nothing coming the other way.

Another concern for operators is the need to frequently replace or recharge batteries, which often means entire units have to be swapped out for safety reasons. All elements of the new system have been specifically designed to reduce battery drain, so that units have a run-time of up to 18 days before batteries need to be replaced. "Not only will this address another safety issue," says Johnson, "but by reducing the frequency of site visits it will generate significant cost savings for us."

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Total cost of ownership

Phil Hutchinson believes his customers are increasingly looking at total cost of ownership when investing in traffic management systems, eschewing cheaper units that often represent a false economy as repairs and spares costs mount up.

"The RC2 is robust and reliable - built to last," he says. "We've paid a lot of attention to detail. The units are completely self-contained, so they don't need any additional handling equipment or tools. The total system weight is 130kg, which eliminates the need for licensed braked trailers. We've incorporated integral tie-down points for flexible vehicle transport and deployment, and integral chargers within the base for faster turnaround – so there's no need for depot-based chargers."

The RC2 also answers the need for speedy deployment. Its eye-level control panel is simple to use, with a quick-start user guide plus a QR code for the full user manual on the access door for easy reference.



The most compact portable traffic signal

Following the launch of RC2 is a tripod version that uses some of the same innovative technology and includes an integral battery but is even more compact, making it ideal for transportation in a wide range of vehicles for rapid deployment. The RC2 Tripod is the industry's most compact, compliant tripod-based portable traffic signal yet.

For more information

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