

CASE STUDY



mouchel 

Sceneric and Mouchel launch an industry leading Traffic Notification System.

Mouchel is a consulting and business services group that provides many of the design, managerial and engineering services that the strategic road network in England.

Together, Sceneric and Mouchel have developed and launched an industry leading online system to provide up to date information to drivers passing through road works.



THE ESSENTIAL LINK BETWEEN BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

THE CHALLENGE

Mouchel approached Sceneric to provide an automated system which would enable mobile VMS roadwork signs, located along the M6 and M42, to display traffic information using data from the National Traffic Database (NTCC) DATEXII data feed. The raw information provided by NTCC is collected from cameras and sensors positioned along and within the motorways.

A system was needed to interpret the data from NTCC and present meaningful information such as journey times and warnings in real time to the mobile roadwork signs.

This system enables mobile roadwork signs to display precise data, such as journey times between affected junctions.

THE SOLUTION

The Sceneric solution was to create an online system in which a user can link together several cameras and sensor positions on the motorway and then isolate travel data from the NTCC purely based on this section of motorway.

For example road works may span several junctions and as such the relevant data from the NTCC needs to reflect that section of road.

Once the data relevant to a section of motorway is isolated the system then allows a user to define rules to display messages depending on the content of the data, the date and the time of day.

The system also has an online interface which enables an operator to monitor traffic status, configure new messages to display on the road works signs and also provides a manual override, in the event of an emergency situation.

By using the data in the NTCC DATEX II feed, journey times are accurate and based upon the average travel time of vehicles that have previously used the section of road on which a road user is driving. Importantly, road users are not being given estimates of journey time but precise information based on the drivers ahead of them.

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As the system uses a configurable rules engine each sign can be individually managed. For example the system can automatically turn a sign off when traffic is flowing smoothly or during quiet periods such as late at night, in order to conserve power.

The system also allows specific messages to be displayed, such as “Tiredness Kills” or “Don’t Drink and Drive”.

The system is built using Java technology, utilising an open source library to reduce cost. It is designed to connect to more than one traffic database and is completely scalable.

Wai Lok Ip, CTO at Sceneric said, “We are delighted to have been selected for this project which is making a real difference to road users. We have used some of the latest technology available in the implementation to ensure the system can extract all the information required and download the 30MB DATEX II data in just seconds. The system has been designed and implemented with fully configurable features which allow Mouchel to set up messages and rules without any need to resort to IT development.”

THE RESULT

Thanks to Sceneric, Mouchel have a new and effective traffic management system for areas in which road works are in place, which is now being rolled out along the M6 and also the M42.

The new system will make traffic through road works, which often require more attention for drivers, both smoother and safer for all involved.

About Sceneric

Sceneric is an IT Services Company that specialises in designing and building innovative software. The Company fulfils this strategy by providing fully integrated systems and products installed on site or delivered. To learn more about Sceneric, visit www.sceneric.com or call +44(0)8445 678 720