

Breaking NEWS

Mikros excels in a tender situation

Mikros Traffic Monitoring was recently awarded a contract by the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) to the value of R62 million.

The contract commenced on 1 May 2008 and is for a period of 48 months. However, the contract took almost two years to award due to an unusual situation. SANRAL initially called for tenders in May 2006, and Mikros was awarded the tender at the end of November 2006. However, a legal wrangle ensued between SANRAL and one of the unsuccessful tenderers, which prevented Mikros from continuing with the contract. A settlement was reached between SANRAL and the objecting tenderer, which required a re-evaluation of the tender.

November and December 2007, during which three tenderers, including Mikros, were invited to participate.

The trials comprised of extensive video monitoring tests in order to verify the accuracy of the equipment, as well as extensive evaluation of procedural and operational capabilities of the tenderers.

During the trials Mikros successfully demonstrated its ability to comply with the requirements of the tender by having the necessary infrastructure, technical knowledge and capacity to undertake the contract.

Even though the tender was structured such that it could be awarded to more than one contractor, on 4 March 2008 Mikros was awarded the entire contract.



Mikros Traffic Monitoring 

TRADING up

The road to success

Syntell's Traffic Systems division is pleased to report on excellent sales of over R15 million of traffic management products to Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) in the April-June quarter.



These sales covered a wide range of technology, but are largely focused on the Johannesburg Metro's BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) project.

Syntell's M4 series traffic controllers, complemented with UPS (uninterruptible power supply) capability, form the heart of our product offering of this sale. GPRS communications equipment for our Remote Management System (RMS) was also included.

Complementary product sales included the Traficam virtual traffic sensor and LED traffic signals. The Traficam product is a unique optical camera used to replace traditional magnetic loops that are normally cut into the road's surface.

Traficams are a product of Traficon (Belgium) (who also supply sophisticated incident detection systems for highways).

10 000 Traficams have now been sold worldwide, with 500 into South Africa alone.

The LED traffic signals are designed and manufactured by Swarco Futurit (Austria).

Furit's products are the only fourth generation LED type available locally, and feature a "central light source" and Fresnel lens system, fully conforming to SANS 1459-2004 specification. Futurit ships over 400 000 LED modules annually, more than enough to replace every signal in South Africa.

Syntell confidently represents Swarco Traffic Management, a group that includes products ranging from UTC systems from Mizar (SPOT/Utopia), massive VMS signs from Futurit, public transport VMS signs, and audible pedestrian pushbuttons.

Syntell is proud to be an ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) 'partner' in JRA's projects over the past five years. Over 600 traffic controllers have been sold to and installed for JRA during this period.



Fast FACTS

Ekurhuleni



Some interesting facts about Ekurhuleni and its surrounds you may not have known.

- The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality was formed in 2000 and is the fourth largest municipality in South Africa.
- The municipality spans 2 000 square km, or 192 355 hectares of land.
- There are 10 million trees in Johannesburg, of which 2.5 million are in parks and pavements, with the remaining 7.5 million being in private homes or properties. It is for this reason that Johannesburg is the largest man-made forest in the world.
- It's home to about 2,5 million people occupying approximately 750 000 households.
- Ekurhuleni used to be known as the East Rand and consisted of nine separate municipalities.
- It's South Africa's main point of entry for international visitors through OR Tambo Airport.
- While none of the world cup matches will be played in Ekurhuleni, there are four practice stadiums: Sinaba, Vosloosrus, Makhulong, and Katlehong.
- Ekurhuleni is responsible for some 23% of the Gross Geographic Product of Gauteng.
- The Kidetselana Cultural Village houses the nine African tribes of South Africa, giving visitors an authentic feel for the different cultures of the country.



Syntell/JMPD Mini Traffic Training Centre

Syntell and the JMPD are planning to open a Mini Traffic Training Centre in Randburg to address the huge problem of traffic accidents by targeting children for road safety education.

Despite various continuous interventions to address pedestrian, pedal cycle and motor vehicle accidents, the statistics reflecting fatal motor accidents remain alarmingly high. Most accidents relating to pedestrians and pedal cyclists involve children, and these incidents can be reduced by increasing their basic road safety knowledge.

Syntell and the JMPD hope to change these attitudes by providing children with an outcome based programme at the Randburg Mini Traffic Training Centre. Syntell intends to donate R350,000 to the centre. The centre will have a permanent training facility specifically engineered for road safety.

It will include a lecture room that is equipped to conduct road safety lectures, and an asphalt quad for practical demonstrations and evaluation purposes. After attending a lecture and training, children must demonstrate the principles of safe road behaviour, and how to properly ride a bicycle, if they own one.

Lecture room

Learners will attend lectures in a room decorated with road safety posters. Lectures will be conducted using existing material sponsored by the Directorate Traffic Safety and other aids.

On arrival at the training centre, the Road Safety Educator will give:

- an explanation of the circuit (Rules & Regulations); and
- comprehensive road safety lectures to Grades 1 – 3.

Learners will then be taken to the quad for a practical experience session where

- 'motorists' will drive around using a steering wheel;
- 'pedestrians' will be crossing the road at pedestrian crossings; and
- there is a question and answer session at the end.

Asphalt Quad

The quad will have demarcated areas for the different training programmes, i.e. the mini traffic centre, pedal cycle course, traffic warden and scholar patrol training. All practical training will be in a safe, controlled environment where the officers can evaluate the students without any interference.

Thus

- creating a disciplined environment for the child that focuses on the principles of road safety, which is free from any distractions;
- educating children from an early age with regards to road safety, and to instill a sense of responsibility that they will use into adulthood;
- promoting and increasing community awareness regarding road safety;
- strengthening links between the community and traffic services;
- training volunteers who will promote road safety; and
- developing and implementing solutions and strategies to prevent accidents between children and other road users.



Syntell helps Andile help many

Syntell has adopted the Andile After School Care Centre, and is currently assisting it with renovations of the building and sharing of resources.

The Andile Centre, which is situated in New Crossroads, is underwritten by the Pascap Trust, which partners with after school care projects. Andile means 'many' and that is exactly what the Centre provides: many opportunities to many children.

The Centre achieves this by helping unsupervised kids after school with their homework, teaching them life skills, and showing them the importance of having a holistic approach to life, all in a safer environment.

The Centre also provides the kids with a meal every day. Fees are R1 per day or R20 per month per child.

Syntell has raised and donated R10 000 to Phase 1 for the replacement of all windows and burglar bars.

Phase 2 will be teaching the children road safety, and giving them reflective bands to make crossing the road much safer.

By building a relationship with Andile After School Care Centre, Syntell is building a hopeful future for these young ones.

Watch this space!



Moving on UP

On the road again

Due to excellent growth in the road safety business over the past year, we have decided to consolidate this business under a single person.



Manager, and Programme Manager, and was made Manufacturing Manager of Plessey General Electronics (which is now Syntell) in 1993.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Saadiq Mathews as Divisional Managing Director – Road Safety. Whilst based in Cape Town, Saadiq will spend two to three days a week at the Midrand office.

Saadiq has had a long and distinguished career within the electronics industry, remaining loyal to the companies he works for. He began as the first black trainee technician employed by Plessey in 1983.

He quickly moved up the ranks, fulfilling roles such as Product Manager, Project

In 1997 Saadiq was appointed GM Customer Services, which also covered some of the "Syntell" products.

In 2000, Teltec Business solutions, of which Saadiq was a part owner/director, formed a joint venture with Tellumat, called TellCiS, an out-source call centre (which is now Syntell Business Solutions), and was appointed MD.

In February 2003 he was promoted to GM Syntell Road Safety, and then Executive Director Operations Syntell. Saadiq was part of the MBO of Syntell from Tellumat in December 2003.

In 2004 he was made Managing Director Syntell Business Solutions (Pty) Ltd., and Regional MD Syntell, culminating in his most recent appointment.