

newsletter

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Breaking News >>

SYNTELL INTRODUCES HI-TECH SPEED MEASURING SYSTEM TO OUR MOTHER CITY



"Newly installed cameras on the M5, caught more than 500 speeding motorists in the past month."

Syntell is proud to announce the installation of the first new hi-tech Average Speed over Distance cameras for the City of Cape Town. The hi-tech cameras record motorists' average speed over stretches of key city arterial routes and highways.

The National Prosecuting Authority has given it's thumbs-up on the operational configuration and systems accuracy. This implies that the courts will consequently accept the system readings.

In essence, the cameras accurately record the date and time at which a vehicle passes them and state-of-the-art software calculates the average speed at which the vehicle was travelling. This method of measuring speed was predominantly introduced to create speed-calming on our highways. It is envisaged that the introduction of speed calming on major highways will result in motorists exiting the highways at a more controlled speed and will thus bring about a reduction of speed in the residential areas and suburbs.

JP Smith, the city's mayoral committee member for safety and security added "At this stage, it's looking optimistic. In principle it works, just as it did in the

UK. There has been a definite behavioural change .For years the static cameras have not been saving lives. I am willing to venture that the static cameras caught many more people and made the city a lot more money. But how many people are caught is not an indication of whether they are working, it's about how many lives are saved."

Traditional speed cameras have one limitation in that you can slow down while you pass the camera and accelerate away afterwards; such cameras are therefore positioned at strategic places where speed calming is required at certain high accident zones. Syntell's latest Average Speed over Distance technology compels motorists to adhere to, and remain within the speed limit over extensive distances.

An additional feature of this system is that valuable information of the vehicles that have passed the cameras will be made available to law enforcement authorities. For instance, the camera system can very easily be configured to show how many vehicles are unlicensed, as well as to show whether there are any warrants of arrest linked to a certain vehicle. Images from cameras will also be used to depict drivers who disobey the law by not wearing safety belts or talking on their mobile cell phones. Such errant motorists will also be prosecuted.

For Cape Town motorists, the cameras on the M5 are likely to be the first of many such systems across the city. The concept of Average Speed over Distance speed measurement has been piloted for the last two years in KZN where Mikros have been the pioneers in this field. Syntell has been working very closely with Mikros KZN to ensure that a state-of-the-art system is delivered to the City. To this end, Mikros was instrumental with the software development of the system. The City is now looking towards similar installed systems on most major routes. In terms of the contract Syntell holds with the City of Cape Town, a

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total of five systems will be installed.

Although the fastest recorded speed of one particular vehicle was measured at 163 km/hr, we have noticed a remarkable decrease in the speed over this stretch of road. A total of 586 violations have been recorded thus far. Motorists have been given fair warning before this system was introduced, and received extensive media coverage before it was officially switched on.

Furthermore, large signboards have been installed warning motorists of the speed measuring methodology well in advance.

Errant motorists that have been caught speeding will receive these fines via post, and will bear two snapshot images of the vehicle which is recorded at both points. Traffic authorities in collaboration with Syntell are looking at the possibility of introducing this technology in high accident zones that have claimed many lives. Syntell is confident that its latest technologies will contribute positively towards Road Safety and reduce carnage on our roads.

Trading UP



The Networks division ended the last quarter in a flurry with a number of deals coming in at the last minute.

The big contract involving the World Bank for the installation and commissioning of a vending system in Abuja (Nigeria) finally materialized after four years of uncertainty. The system installation and training will take place in February with the service and maintenance portion kicking in thereafter. We have always had a desire to grow our technology platform in Nigeria and believe that this contract is a considerable move in that direction. We have further solidified our position in Namibia by receiving the order

for the installation and commissioning of a S3 System for Oranjemund. It has been three years in the making so was a pleasant and unexpected surprise when we got the appointment.

Other notable local deals that came in the last quarter was the successful implementation of the hosting of our S3 Vending platform for Thaba Chweu Municipality, as well as obtaining the Receivers Agreement for that area. We were also successful in obtaining a 3 year S3 System License and Maintenance agreement for Maletsuwa Municipality, as well as a new contract for Emthanjeni Municipality.

We have solidified our move into the private sector by successfully installing a hosted S3 system for the V & A Waterfront's residential properties which includes our Revenue Collection solution.

The City of Cape Town went out to tender for new Super Vendor licenses of which Syntell is a leading partner. We are confident of our offering and hope to see a new period of growth in this market.

Revenue Collection for our other areas continues to grow and we are looking forward to expanding upon that base.

Giving Back



BEAUFORT WEST WATER RELIEF

The Syntell Foundation teams up with local company to transport water to the community of Beaufort West.



In the light of the severe water shortage experienced by the Beaufort West community Syntell has partnered with JCR Transport, a transporter of bulk wine, based in Rawsonville, in an initiative to transport 35 000 litres of potable water to Beaufort West.

At 08:30 on the morning of Tuesday 28 December 2010 'The Syntell Water Tanker' left Rawsonville en route to Touws Rivier to fill up with water and thereafter transported to the municipality in Beaufort West.

This initiative was born after listening to a radio programme in which people were requested to donate bottled water to Beaufort West Municipality.

Mr Louw Smit of the municipality advised that every drop of water was "seen as a blessing". He explained that the municipality had restricted residents to 12 kilolitres per household per month. Water supplies were also completely cut every 36 hours. "There is not enough water for the town and that's why we requested

assistance by way of bottled water," he said. Our surface water is non-existent.

Syntell is proud to have been able to join this noble initiative to send water to the drought stricken Beaufort West because its imperative that we assist our fellow citizens in their hour of need as this is how we show solidarity as South Africans.

As a corporate company we are proud to have been party to this venture, and extend our sincere gratitude to Mr Coenie du Toit, Managing Director of JCR Transport.

A simple radio announcement turned out into a huge project, managed by Mr Theuns Coetzee of Bonnivale, and as at 18 January 6 million litres of water was delivered to Beaufort West.

In the Diary

Forthcoming Exhibitions



The bi-annual e-Transport Conference and Exhibition is the premier ITS event to network with key decision-makers and ITS professionals and exploit business opportunities in South Africa's booming ITS market.

The theme for the 6th e-Transport conference and Exhibition is Sustainable Mobility: The 2010 Legacy.

The Traffic and Road Safety teams from both Cape Town and Gauteng, as well as Mikros Systems will be exhibiting their products at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg on 18 and 19 May.

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Moving on Up >>

Our customers are the most important part of our business it stands to reason that staff who interface with our clients play a vital role...



Ettiene Thomas, Client Liaison Officer, Networks - on the front line, active in presenting the professional, helpful and friendly face of Syntell.

Ettiene Thomas joined Syntell in June 2010 where we have the benefits of his extensive yet highly significant experience.

He is responsible for the maintenance of Syntell's retail footprint and vendor management whilst managing the client liaison team.

Syntell prides itself on its reliable and efficient customer service and Ettiene looks forward to uphold and grow this relationship with the division's stakeholders.

Ettiene sees 2011 as a platform for revenue growth for electricity and to cultivate our footprint within the respective Municipalities. He is also considering looking at business opportunities within the private sector.

The Client liaison team has done great work over the last six months and hope that the increased service levels will play a role in securing the City of Cape Town electricity tender.

"Having a hands-on approach combined with access to a team that has a wealth of knowledge, I feel we can reach all the goals set for 2011 whilst enjoying the working environment!"

Fast Facts >>



**Road Traffic Legislation amendments
Motorists convicted of driving more than 30km/h over the speed limit in urban areas, and more than 40km/h over the speed limit outside urban areas, will have their licenses suspended automatically.**

As of 1 February 2011, any person who obtains a driving licence for a heavy motor vehicle will no longer be allowed to drive a light motor vehicle.

Persons who obtain a code C, C1, EC or EC1 driving licence will not be allowed to

drive a motor vehicle that requires a code B or code EB licence (in old terms – a person with a code 10, 11, 13 or 14 licence cannot drive a vehicle for which you need a code 08 licence).

This only applies to new licences issued as from 1 February 2011.

This provision does not affect those licences issued before this date (1 February 2011). Even when renewing their driving licences, current licence holders would still have the same authorisations that applied to their licences.

The implementation of these amendments has various implications, a few of which are listed below:

- New motor vehicles registered after 1 August 2010 must have number plates fitted with pop rivets or screws. If it cannot be fitted to the vehicle it must be fitted to a bracket that complies with SANS 973.
- Foreign driving licences are acceptable if obtained whilst not in South Africa for a period longer than three months. Foreign licences are valid in South Africa until it expires in the country of issue but not for longer than five years after the holder obtained permanent residence in South Africa.
- Directional Stability Control Devices for mini and midi-buses operating for reward

are introduced through a certification process that forms part of the roadworthy test. It applies to all mini and midi-buses and not only newly manufactured vehicles.

- Municipal Police Officers will be regarded as Traffic Officers – dual appointments are not required.
- Authorisation granted to exceed the speed limit and transgress road traffic signs in the execution of duties was added for drivers of medical and fire-fighting response vehicles and authorised persons.
- Provincial MECs will determine the fees for the registration and licensing of vehicles, while all other fees will be determined by the Minister of Transport. These have not been published yet.

Source (www.dot.gov.za)

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