

# Temporary CCTV keeps traffic flowing on England's motorways

*P&D Specialist Services, experts in the design and build of CCTV systems to the highways industry, have undertaken a series of projects to supply temporary cameras to motorways with roadworks across the UK.*

With over 200 cameras installed in the last year, the systems are designed to ensure traffic runs as smoothly as possible, providing the on-site TSCO (Traffic Safety and Control Officer) with invaluable information regarding incidents, accidents and on-site vehicle recovery operations throughout the works.

When a stretch of motorway undergoes roadworks, it often means that there are no emergency telephones as a result of the hard shoulder being used as a 'running lane'. The result is motorists have nowhere to stop safely and summon assistance in the event of a breakdown or accident. That is where P&D CCTV systems come in, offering a real-time overview of the entire stretch of works. Pelco day/night Esprit PTZ cameras with wipers are spaced at 500m intervals and linked back to a manned 24/7 on-site control cabin. The cameras are mounted on 10m wind-down poles, allowing for easy maintenance without the need for cherry pickers. Fibre-optic cables are used to cope with the long distances involved –

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up to 17km in some cases. “We follow a largely modular approach to get the whole system set up quickly and with minimal fuss,” explains Frank Gearon of P&D Specialist Services. “We’ve been handling electrical projects in the sector for over 20 years now, and we’re very experienced in what is needed and the best way to achieve it.”

VideoSwitch DVRs with removable hard disks sit in the control cabin along with a Pelco matrix and video distribution amplifiers. Footage can be viewed on Vista monitors and is held for 31 days before being overwritten. “We use Norbain to supply all this kit for a number of reasons,” says Mr Gearon. “They have a large stock holding and give us the fast delivery our projects demand. We can provide Norbain with

a schedule of equipment and events, and they’ll hold the stock we need and deliver it when it’s required - a very important factor for us and our customers. Another important factor is the strong account management we receive, providing the support we need across many brands.”

Main Contractor Birse Civils brought P&D in on a recent project covering the M4 between Junctions 8/9 and 10. “P&D proposed a hard wired fibre-optic system and the results have been excellent,” says Richard Crichton, an Agent with Birse Civils. Tarmac Highway Services is also part of the specialist team working with the Highways Agency to improve the road network. They appointed P&D to design and install a temporary CCTV system on the M60 Junctions 19-22. “We’re involved with the Traffic Management, vehicle restraint systems and street lighting,” explains Anthony Pope, Tarmac’s CMF manager.

As well as monitoring motorists, Vista PowerDome 1/3” 18:1 day/night cameras are used at site compounds for security purposes. Mr Gearon expands: “We choose Vista because of its excellent value and for its suitability to these applications.” Works compounds are often located far from the roadworks site, so P&D offer remote viewing of the motorway cameras via 3G modems, as a management tool - allowing senior staff to monitor site progress at a glance.



With these types of projects there is a very short install window available to P&D, and access to sites can be severely restricted, especially during busy periods. "We operate night and day shifts to get the jobs done in time, and carry out all civil engineering functions ourselves, which can greatly speed the whole process," says Mr Gearon.

Birse Civils is very happy with the system. Mr Crichton says: "CCTV plays a vital function providing the various other services, such as the TSCO, with the information they need to do their jobs effectively. Without it, we'd be paying for support services that were effectively working blind."

Tarmac is equally impressed. "The camera system is of a very high-quality, producing good images for the CCTV operator to keep on top of anything that happens," states Mr Pope. "The system is very versatile and with the aid of the rotating cameras covers the full works area for the traffic management. They can also be relocated to cover the works area should any of the sub contractors have issues."

Compliments are also made by both main contractors to P&D's work. "They've done a fantastic job timing wise and there have been no issues with the equipment," says Mr Crichton. "They've provided not only the equipment, but also the staff to man it and we've been extremely impressed with the quality of both."

Mr Pope states: "P&D have continued to produce a high-quality of service on a system that has been every-changing to meet the requirements of the contract. The system has been installed swiftly and any replacements that have been required due to vandalism have been handled with immediate effect, with no system down time."

### About P&D Specialist Services

Serving the highways industry since 1986, P&D Specialist Services have a proven reputation for high quality work, providing a broad range of services that can be adapted to meet the needs of any project.

Operating in the vicinity of high speed roads demands the highest standards in safe systems of work, which P&D implement in partnership with their clients. As NICEIC contractors, they also possess the mandatory Highways Agency Sector Scheme Approval to carry out electrical works on the HA motorway network, along with ISO 9001 - 2008 UKAS Quality Management Systems and ISO 14001 Environmental accreditations.

Their expertise in electrical and civil engineering is reinforced by a commitment to building stable, long lasting relationships with main contractors and suppliers, ensuring that they can always provide the flexibility, expertise, reliability and quality that their customers demand.

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