

Delivering a sustainable railway

Anyone visiting the recent Infrarail 2008 exhibition could not help but be impressed by the new ideas and work processes on show. Severn Partnership regularly attend these industry showcases with one simple objective; to identify the best new ideas and blend them with their 16 years of railway infrastructure survey experience so as to deliver services which will support a sustainable railway.

The Rail Technical Strategy (RTS) provides the cornerstone for the development of a sustainable railway. Following a thorough and open process of engagement with the rail industry, the DfT has now issued its first strategy which brings together a long term vision for the railway and creates targets for optimising the application of existing and new technology. In response, Severn Partnership has developed innovative systems that are not only aligned to the strategy but also deliver major benefits to their clients.

An example of this approach can be found on the many GSM-R sites surveyed by Severn Partnership across the Midlands, Cambrian line

networks and the south Wales corridor. An efficient survey programme was executed, underpinned by quality assurance checks which delivered survey data which formed the basis locating and building masts for the operational radio system. This framework will be developed through GPRS to provide a high speed operational data transmission system working bi-directionally with high availability between train and track.

In response to the demand for greater system capacity and reliability, Severn Partnership have been involved with development of the next phase of technology to GSM-R, the European Rail Traffic Management System. ERTMS will play a key role in control systems improvement and has the potential to increase capacity by up to 20%.

The Cambrian line has been the test bed for ERTMS and Severn Partnership were involved in delivering part of the survey measurement requirements. Once again Severn Partnership's state of the art survey technology and investment in training surveyors to the highest standards has produced dividends through the completion of such strategic rail projects on time and to budget.

The importance of this development was recognised in a keynote address

delivered by Clive Barker of AnsaldoSTS at Infrarail 2008, and the interest shown in the exhibition of ERTMS implementation on the Cambrian Lines suggests that the technology may soon be adopted across many other networks.

Severn Partnership has the experience, the skills and technologies necessary to partner organisations in delivering large scale projects employing technologies such as GSM-R and ERTMS.

Severn Partnership have been involved in most types of railway infrastructure measurement such as signalling sites, S&C renewals, HOTR, A09, tunnels, bridges, stations, platform extensions, monitoring and geotechnical works. Please see their advert or visit their website for more details or contact:

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