

Trinity wins UAE contract

Trinity Highway Products has won a contract for 157km of its CASS wire rope barrier to protect drivers on the Ghayathi to Madinat Zayed road in Abu Dhabi's Western Region.

The barrier is to be erected along the median of the road which runs towards the Saudi border to help prevent crossover accidents. Crossovers form the fastest-growing category of road accident and

have a high fatality rate because of the high closing speeds involved.

The client for the Ghayathi to Madinat Zayed road is Abu Dhabi's Department of Transportation and the contract is worth "several million dollars", according to Peter Bergendahl, Trinity's senior director, international business & product development. "It's a significant project for us."

The Swedish company has been selling CASS in the UAE for around 10 years. It is particularly useful for areas such as the Western Region, says Bergendahl as, unlike traditional concrete barriers, drifting sand blows straight through the wire rope barrier. With more solid barriers, sand would have to be cleared on a daily basis.

Stand 3A39

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Lacroix adds colour to variable message signs

Lacroix Traffic is using Gulf Traffic to introduce its new multi-colour LED full matrix variable message signs. Using the latest high-intensity CMS diode technology mean the multi-coloured messages can be viewed at distances of up to 300 metres.

Export sales director Steve Collins is excited at the opportunities the new signs present. "Up to now the road authorities have only been able to tell drivers of delays ahead or given them travel times and have not been able to help motorists around the problem. With the new signs they can display full colour diversion maps, pictograms and information in Arabic, Chinese, Cyrillic or any other script. And if there is no message to convey, the signs can display the road authority's or city's logo."

He says the technology allows road authorities to provide information that previously drivers have had to get from satellite navigation systems and points out that operating a satellite navigation when driving can be as distracting as using a mobile phone. It also means the authorities can have an influence on which route drivers take to avoid the congestion – influence that has over recent years has been exercised by the satellite navigation companies.

He believes road authorities in the Middle East are in a prime position to benefit from the new signs because of all the transport infrastructure work going on in the region. "Unlike countries with established infrastructure, the road authorities in this region have the opportunity to use this type of technology from day one,

allowing them to offer superior driver information."

He says there is very little price difference between the latest signs and the previous amber-

only generation and the full matrix displays can be configured to meet national requirements.

Stand 2E15

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Excited about the opportunities: Steve Collins of Lacroix