



## PRESS RELEASE

Peek Traffic Limited has issued the following press release as of: May 2009

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### SME and Under-represented Groups Engagement Project

In April 2008 Peek was awarded a new contract by Transport for London (TfL) for maintenance, installation and refurbishment of traffic signal and ancillary equipment in three out of six London areas. This TCMS contract will run for 5 years, with two possible one year extensions.

Recently we have been experiencing difficulties finding and retaining reliable subcontractors to work with us, and, with the London 2012 Olympics looming, we were concerned that this situation would not improve. This project, supported by TfL, was designed to stimulate engagement with local small and medium sized enterprise (SMEs) working in related fields in and around London but not engaged in traffic signals work. We were also glad to have the support of our consultants, Arup, to help define the identification and engagement process.

We used a variety of valuable resources including;

- Diversity Works for London
- Supply London
- Business Link
- CompeteFor
- Supplier Diversity Europe

Potential SMEs were identified and the engagement process began, initially with telephone and email conversations. Six SMEs (electrical and security contractors) were then invited to attend briefing sessions at our London depot where we explained what we were trying to achieve and how they could acquire the necessary skills and qualifications to be able to work for any of the TCMS Contractors.

All six contractors are keen to progress and we will be working closely with them over the coming weeks and months to bring them into the traffic signals fold as subcontractors.

The project then continued as we sought to identify and engage with under-represented groups, for example, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME), women-owned businesses and disability-owned businesses. To help with this aspect we joined Minority Supplier Development UK (MSDUK) and we will be working closely with them to ensure that new subcontractors that we engage are representative of the diverse areas of London in which we work. Another six contractors, from under-represented groups,

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have been engaged and have attended briefings at Crayford. It is very encouraging that all 12 SMEs who attended the Crayford sessions have declared a genuine desire to take the process further and enter the traffic signals field in one guise or another, as subcontractors to the prime TCMS contractors, Peek, Serco and Siemens.

TfL have been very supportive throughout this project and they have helped to define and refine our requirements, processes and methodologies.

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