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PRESS RELEASE

OPEN TRACK LEADS THE WAY FOR RAIL SAFETY AND RELIABILITY

As a railway-planning tool OpenTrack is unrivalled and with official UK distribution rights, Stanford Management Consultancy Group Ltd is promoting the revolutionary software package to operators across Europe.

OpenTrack replaces traditional methods of measuring train, track and signalling capability. As well as being able to model and test new train services or track and signalling layouts, it enables sectional running times to be challenged. As a result, train operators will be able to achieve real capacity as opposed to timetabling capacity.

OpenTrack also has considerable potential for enabling daytime track access on multi-track routes for inspection or emergency engineering. This means rail operators can meet their maintenance and safety obligations in a safe and planned manner.

The software package is the brainchild of Dr Daniel Huerlimann, a senior researcher at the Institute of Transportation Traffic, Highway and Railway Engineering (IVT) at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

Dr Huerlimann says, "It is a long tradition of the IVT to develop railway planning tools and we felt that a new package was needed for the industry."

"The idea for OpenTrack came out of research into object oriented modelling of railway infrastructure elements and railway processes and developed with the help of other researchers, the railway industry and railway operators."

SMC contacted Dr Huerlimann two years ago and became the sole UK distributors in 2001.

To ensure the software's suitability for the UK market, SMC explained in detail how railway planning works in this country and defined the requirements for successful usage of OpenTrack.

Dr Huerlimann continues, "The popularity of OpenTrack has exceeded our expectations. This is due to the close contact IVT had with railway operators, key players within the industry, consultancies and other railway research institutes early on to ensure we understood their needs."

Director General of SMC, Stuart Davies says, "As a company with considerable experience of railway operational modelling, we have reviewed OpenTrack against all the known planning tools and believe this is better both in its versatility and quality."

"Potentially OpenTrack means a safer and more reliable service for users and operators."

Stanford Management Consultancy (Group) Ltd was formed in 1997 and has offices in Birmingham, London and York.

The Company has become a major audit and accreditation supplier, asset management supplier, business and change management consultant, management systems and safety case supplier, train planning and operations simulation modeller, interim manager and franchise advisor.

For more information on Stanford Management Consultancy (Group) Ltd go online at www.smconsult.co.uk or call 0121 693 3193.

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