BAY-SPECIFIC PARKING GUIDANCE INFORMATION SYSTEM INSTALLED AT DUNDRUM TOWN CENTRE

Keith Gavin, A.G.K. Ltd., writes about this important addition to the car park information systems repertoire, a first for Ireland, and one which has been very positively received by the car park customers. A.G.K Ltd. have also recently installed other parking information systems in Skycourt SC in Shannon Town, Blackpool SC and Retail Park in Cork.

A.G.K. Ltd. has recently completed the installation of the Signal-Park bay-specific parking guidance information solution at Dundrum Town Centre car parks. This system is manufactured in Switzerland by Schick Electronic. The Signal-Park system has been installed at over eighty parking facilities worldwide but Dundrum Town Centre represents the first installation of the system in either the UK or Irish markets.

The Dundrum Town Centre is a 650 million euro project that includes shops, restaurants, a hotel and cinema, together with residential and office developments. When fully completed in 2008, the finished scheme will be the biggest shopping centre and private urban scheme undertaken to date in Ireland.

A key objective of the development was to set new standards in terms of customer service and this philosophy extended to the 100,000 sq metre car park which is designed as an extension of the centre in terms of design, lighting and access, rather than just a place to store the car.

The car park has a capacity of some 3,500 spaces and is organised in both underground and multi-storey car parks

above: roadside VMS sign

Drivers approaching the centre are informed, via strategically located roadside Variable Message Signs, of the real-time parking space availability within the car parks.

Upon entry to the car parks, level-specific electronic parking information signs guide customers to the individual levels of the car park with spaces available.

above: level information sign

On each level, customers are then informed, via electronic aisle information signs, of the

above: aisle information sign

number of free spaces on each row, where they can then visually identify the available parking bays on the basis of the red and green light system. This means that customers are guided to the nearest available parking space by the shortest possible route, thus ensuring the most efficient parking search process for users of the parking facilities.

above: parking bay indicator lights

which are interlinked. The sheer scale of the parking facilities required a customer-friendly parking information solution which would enable users to locate an available parking space as quickly and efficiently as possible. The chosen solution to this challenge was the Signal-Park bay-specific parking guidance information system.

This system involves the installation of ultrasonic detectors at each individual parking bay. These sensors incorporate LED lamps which display a green light when the parking bay is available and red when it is occupied. This enables the driver to identify, at a glance, where in the car park spaces are available. By monitoring each individual parking bay the system enables the immediate transmission of highly accurate parking space availability to customers using the parking facilities.

From the operator's viewpoint, the system provides an invaluable parking management tool enabling the identification of real-time occupancy and availability in the various parking zones which is presented via an easy-to-use program interface on the car park management PC. The system also provides the car park operator with detailed car park occupancy statistics on an hourly basis.

An additional 500 parking spaces, currently being constructed at the centre, will also use the Signal Park System.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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