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NSW 'talking truck' trial chooses Cohda Wireless

Australian-based global leader in connected vehicle technology Cohda Wireless will supply equipment for a major safety trial near Wollongong that aims to reduce truck accidents and improve traffic flow on a busy highway, as well as improve traffic flow.

Cohda Wireless will provide 95 of its MK4 anti-collision devices for the Cooperative Intelligent Transport Initiative (CITI) trial, to run on a major road where most crashes involve heavy vehicles. The trial also aims to improve the flow of heavy vehicles in and out of Port Kembla, one of Australia's busiest ports.

The first phase of the five-year trial will include 30 heavy vehicles fitted with Cohda devices for use on a 42km route from Port Kembla to the Hume Highway-Picton Road interchange near Wilton.

The CITI trial, expected to start by the middle of this year, will ultimately use 85 Cohda on-board units and 10 roadside units. Cohda Wireless has signed the contract with Transport NSW.

The NSW Centre for Road Safety's Manager of Road Safety Technology, John Wall, said Cohda Wireless was chosen because it met the CITI Project's rigorous technical specifications, based on US Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems trials. "Our decision was based on technical compliance and value for money," he said.

"Our goal is to establish Australia's first long term test area for Cooperative ITS. The hard data we gather from vehicles up to 10 times per second as part of the project will assist us to measure the road safety benefits of this new technology.

"The route chosen for the CITI project has had a sad history when it comes to road safety with 13 people losing their lives in the three year period leading up to 2011. Since then the NSW Government has completed a multi-million-dollar upgrade to the road and its immediate environment, it is hoped that adding new safety technologies to heavy vehicles that regularly travel the route will further improve the safety for all people travelling in this area of NSW.

"We have chosen this route to model both built and natural environments, which ranges from a dual-carriage freeway to a rural road, with country towns and a hill that descends from 320 m above sea level to sea level in about six kilometres, before entering Wollongong, Australia's 10th largest city."

Cohda Wireless CEO Paul Gray said the CITI trial contract win was the latest endorsement of Cohda's world-leading technology. "More than half of all vehicles involved in connected-vehicle trials globally contain Cohda equipment, so we're proud to be part of this important Australian trial," he said.

"The global automotive sector is on the threshold of widespread adoption of connected vehicle technology. Earlier this year, the US Federal Government announced it will start taking steps to mandate vehicle-to-vehicle communication technology for light vehicles while European manufacturers plan to install it in production vehicles from 2016."

Cohda Wireless designs and sells Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems that improve road safety by allowing vehicles to communicate with each other, as well as roadside infrastructure, including traffic signals and railway level crossings.

Using a dedicated 5.9 GHz frequency, data such as vehicle position, direction and speed is transmitted between Cohda-equipped vehicles and roadside infrastructure. Messages and alerts can be rapidly communicated to drivers connected by the system.

Cohda's technology allows vehicles to see each other as never before, such as around a corner or over the crest of a hill, as well as sending warnings to drivers of a potential crash.

Cohda's equipment can assist drivers by warning of imminent collisions with nearby similarly-equipped vehicles; current speed limits; potential red-light violations (based on vehicle speed and traffic signal phasing); local road conditions, such as roadworks, fog, and water over the road; and approaching emergency vehicles.

The trial will also equip traffic lights to transmit signal phase and timing information to approaching vehicles – both the current state of the lights and how long before they change.

Community benefit include improved traffic safety for all road users; reduced congestion and pollution; increased road network efficiency; shorter and more predictable journey times; increased efficiency of public transport systems; and better responses to hazards, incidents and accidents.

About Cohda Wireless

Cohda Wireless is an equipment vendor in the Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) market. The company manufactures hardware products with acknowledged best-in-world performance and has developed complete software solutions (from network layer to applications layer) for this market. Cisco and NXP Semiconductors are strategic investors in Cohda Wireless. Cohda's hardware and software products are being used in car-to-car field trials worldwide today. Our customers include a large number of carmakers, tier one suppliers, automotive chip makers, road authorities, as well as new market entrants. Cohda's products are already in use in the USA, Europe, Australia, Japan, and Korea, and have undergone almost one million vehicle-days of testing in these trials. Cohda Wireless' recent opening of its Europe office in Munich follows last year's opening of its US office in the Michigan city of Farmington Hills. For more information, visit www.cohdawireless.com.