



Variable Message Road Safety Sign Controlled from Web Site

The life of an aging variable message road safety sign atop Wainuiomata Hill has been extended with an upgrade, avoiding an expensive replacement. The message displayed on the sign is controlled from a web site, using a Rockwell industrial (PLC) controller installed inside the sign.

THE CHALLENGE

The aging variable message road safety sign has always been difficult to manage; then the radio link to it broke down completely. Replacing the sign is an expensive option: upgrading it with a reliable remote control solution would be much preferred.

THE SOLUTION

Digital Telemetry, together with a local engineering firm, designed and implemented an upgrade solution. It provides reliable remote control of the sign from a web page, for a fraction of the cost of a new sign.

A Rockwell Micrologix® industrial (PLC) controller was installed in the road sign: it has been programmed to control which message is displayed. Digital Telemetry InvisiBridge® network services link a secure web page with the PLC, allowing any authorised person to control the message being displayed.

Your data

Variable message road sign

Rockwell Micrologix® PLC industrial controller controls message displayed

Xtensor® modem controls the PLC and provides the wireless connection

Connection

InvisiBridge® network using Vodafone GPRS link

Your Access

A web page provides easy remote control of the sign message

Secure web site supports multiple authorised users from multiple organisations

Full audit logs of who changed the sign and when

THE PAYOFF

Significant cost savings were achieved by extending the life of the aging sign, instead of replacing it.

The replacement remote control solution is also more flexible and easier to use. The old solution was physically tied to a specific New Zealand Police location. The new web site solution improves responsiveness because authorised people in any location can change the sign, whether they be from New Zealand Police, New Zealand Transit Authority or the Hutt City Council.

Easier, more flexible, more responsive management of the sign means everyone is safer.