

Case study // "Stobart - I" ALO System

One of Network Rails life-saving rules is for the creation of exclusion zones to separate people from plant, and whilst this is embedded in our policies and procedures it is difficult to control. The current primary source of control when moving plant is people, Stobart Rail & Civils found a technological solution that reduces the risk of human error.

The Stobart-I System acts as protection for trackside civils plant, uses 3D cameras and illumination units to measure and continuously plot position in relation to the track. Visual and audible warnings are then triggered whenever an object – person, plant, equipment, or anything else on the worksite – approaches the predefined limits. This is linked to all plant items' operating systems so that as the limit is reached the machine's movements are automatically ceased, making it impossible for any part of the plant to leave the safe zone.

The demountable units can be fitted to any size of plant working on the site and with that, the system is fully adjustable to accommodate the varying exclusion zones of different sizes/shapes of plant. All exclusion zones are visual on a HD screen in the operator's area showing exact measurements from the virtual wall. All data recorded is sent to a dedicated cloud based platform for analysis, where trends are recognised and repetitive behaviour can be identified and controlled.

Stobart Rail & Civils don't stop at innovation; we identify 'what is next'. Further development of the Stobart-I System is currently being explored within the aviation industry when exercising safely working in and around the aircraft adapting the same principles as working trackside.

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