

Press Information

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SMART, SAFE and SUSTAINABLE - THE INSIDE STORY

What goes on inside an Astucia SolarLite “smart” road stud.

The latest-generation of the “smart” Astucia SolarLite™ road studs mark a significant step forward in technology from the traditional reflective “cats-eye” road-marking stud that was first invented by Yorkshireman Percy Shaw over 70 years ago. These old-style passive systems rely on light reflected from a car’s headlamps and therefore have a maximum range of 90 metres or less.



In the 1980s, Martin Dicks, at the time a member of the London Fire Brigade, now recognised within the industry as one of the true visionaries in the field of road safety, invented a solution better matched to the performance of modern motor vehicles. Martin is today rightly recognised as one of the true visionaries in this vital field of road safety. His contribution is at least as great as that of Percy Shaw, who invented the original “cats-eye” over 70 years ago.

The Astucia SolarLite stud uses ‘smart’ technology which stores solar energy during the day, then triggers built-in LEDs, Light-Emitting Diodes, to automatically illuminate from dusk to dawn. These have a range of at least 900 metres, providing drivers with ten times more information on the road ahead.

Each Astucia intelligent road stud is a completely self-sufficient unit which is mounted flush with the road surface and requires no external power source or future maintenance. Sealed within a reinforced plastic case are a solar cell and rechargeable batteries, which collect and conserve energy with the road stud.

The nickel metal hydride battery can store a charge that lasts 240 hours when fully charged. Just 2 hours of bright daylight will provide enough battery power to last ten nights - more than enough to ensure the system keeps working no matter what the weather.



A microprocessor circuit controls the power management, automatically activating the LEDs during the dusk to dawn period. The LEDs are housed in a reflector chamber at the top of the stud, which further increases the light output, while the reflectors also provide all-weather road delineation in daylight.

The units can be specified either as bi-directional units with two LEDs and reflectors pointed in opposite directions for use on highway centre-marking, or can be uni-directional, with a single LED, either in amber, white, red or green to meet specific highway marking requirements.

Each unit weighs 470g and is cylindrical, with a diameter of 108mm and a depth of 48mm. The installation engineers simply cut the appropriate size hole in the road surface and anchor of the stud flush to the road surface. As a flush-fitting unit, the stud will not be damaged by road maintenance such as snow-ploughing and doesn't present a hazard to cyclists or motor cyclists.

"The flush design of this Astucia stud is completely unobtrusive. It will withstand passing traffic with no adverse effects, either to traffic or the stud itself, in a manner unlike any road stud approved for use in the UK today" says Martin Rodgers, sales and marketing director for Clearview Traffic. "We are delighted to be able to bring to the market this smart, safe and sustainable next generation of flush stud. As well as enhanced efficiency, the fact that the new stud is also easier and therefore cheaper to install makes a even stronger case for the take-up of this technology which is continuing to prevent accidents and save lives."

ENDS.

Notes to editors

Astucia is a leading global developer of accident reduction technologies. The core product technology is the Intelligent Road Stud which extend the night-time 'view' of the road, when compared with the traditional reflective type, from around 90 metres to over 900 metres.

Astucia's vision is to reduce casualties and fatalities on roads throughout the world and to reduce congestion by safely increasing the capacity and effectiveness of road networks.

Astucia's global distribution network includes: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Middle East, New Zealand, Mexico, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the USA.

Astucia is part of the Clearview Traffic Group, a guiding force behind three industry respected brands: Astucia, the market innovator for intelligent road studs; Golden River Traffic, a leader in the field of automated traffic counting and classifying; and Count On Us, the largest UK provider of transportation data collection and analysis services. Their motto is self explanatory: "Moving Traffic, Saving Lives".

Issued on behalf of Astucia Traffic Safety Systems by Kingpin Media Limited.

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