

SPECIAL REPORT

Gothenburg keeps the traffic lights under control



Photo: Rasmus G Höglund

Back in 2003 the City of Gothenburg Traffic & Public Transport Authority realized how important it is for an installation owner to have control of all technical systems. Infracontrol created a traffic light supervision system to which all of the cities control units could be connected regardless of make. This formed the basis for Infracontrol Online, which is now used for controlling, monitoring and case management in a large number of municipalities.

-This has made everyday working life so much easier, both for us as installation owners and for our operations contractors, says Ingemar Johansson, Operations and Maintenance Manager for traffic lights and street lighting at the City of Gothenburg Traffic & Public Transport Authority. It also gives us the ability to generate statistics and follow up operations in a simple way. It saves a lot of money.

Brand independent solution that makes life easier

Bengt Ekdahl and Ulf Röhne, who worked at Traffic & Public Transport Authority back then, had made up their minds – they were going to take control and become brand independent and make sure they had a general system for the operational supervision of all traffic lights, regardless of make. They also wanted it to be easily accessible so that it could be used by both the purchaser and operations contractors. Today, all of the Traffic & Public Transport Authority's 350 traffic light installations are connected to Infracontrol Online.

-This makes everyday working life so much easier, both for us as installation owners and for our operations contractors, says Ingemar Johansson, Operations and Maintenance Manager for traffic lights and street lighting at the City of Gothenburg. It also gives us the ability to generate statistics and follow up operations in a simple way. It saves a lot of money.

The right information to the right person

When a fault occurs in an installation it is automatically logged and a fault message is sent as a text message to the operations contractor. The contractor reports the remedial actions taken via the internet or mobile phone. The system is also used by Gothenburg Traffic Information on "15 00 17", and TLI – Gothenburg Tramways' traffic management and information unit – where they take fault reports and log them on a web form. Information regarding the fault is passed on to the appropriate person for action.

-One of the biggest advantages is that it's easy to use, says Ingemar Johansson. This stems from the fact that the users took part and had a say in how it should work right from the beginning. We came up with a solution that focused on the user and not the technology, as is otherwise often the case. We are able to avoid disruptions because the information is so quickly and easily available.

The Traffic & Public Transport Authority's system was created thanks to Infracontrol's long experience of how a reliable, user-friendly operations supervision system should work. A solution based on open interfaces and user functions accessible via the internet and mobile phones resulted in a future-proof application that provides great everyday benefits.

About Infracontrol Online

Infracontrol Online is a unique web-based service where operational alarms, defect reports and comments are collated into simple, easy-to-read cases. The service is also used to manage the overall control of technical functions within a community's infrastructure such as street lighting and parking information.

Infracontrol Online provides everyday benefits by assuring quality, simplifying operations and maintenance work, reducing energy consumption and by the simple expedient of making sure the right person gets the right information at the right time. Today the service is used for many different applications by e.g. the Swedish Transport Administration, Swedavia, Oslo Tramways and a number of Swedish cities, towns and municipalities.

Infracontrol Online requires no software or hardware investments; all you need to use the service is a normal web browser or a mobile phone.