Sika Ensures Smooth Running of Luton Dunstable Busway

Sika concrete admixtures are being used in the production of high quality precast concrete beams and slabs on the £89 million Luton Dunstable Busway, presently being constructed by BAM Nuttall for Luton Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils.

The 13.4km busway will be the second longest in the world, and the longest in an urban environment, running from Houghton Regis, through Dunstable and into Luton town centre, from where it continues using a new bus lane towards Luton Airport. The main section of the route is a 7.4km guided segregated section where the buses will run and be guided on a concrete track.

The L shaped concrete beams on which the buses will run are 6 metres long and 480mm high and weigh 4.8 tonne and are accurate to within 2mm. A high quality surface finish is essential for the buses to travel smoothly.

The concrete needs to achieve high early strength, enabling the precast moulds to be speedily and efficiently turned around - essential for the contractor to maintain the tight production schedule.

In order to meet these requirements, Sika® Viscocrete® 25MP concrete admixture is an important ingredient in the production of the precast base slabs and beams that make up the track. It ensures that the concrete moves freely through the precast moulds, fully encapsulating the steel reinforcement. High early strength is obtained together with an excellent surface finish.

The concrete is supplied by Hanson Concrete from their on site concrete plant. 22 beams are being produced each day, together with 14 base slabs.

On completion, specially adapted buses will travel up to 50mph on the guided busway, and will run normally on the new bus lanes, enjoying priority at junctions.
Press Release

The busway itself features seven main stops, and also eight access points at which bus services serving surrounding local communities will join and leave.

More than 250 bus stops away from the main route will be upgraded with real time passenger information, raised pavements for level boarding, and many with new shelters. CCTV and help points will offer safety and security at stops along the main corridor.

More than 125,000 people live within walking distance of a busway stop, and a new cycle route will run along its length.

Contact Sika at concreteinnovation@uk.sika.com or telephone 0800 292 2572 or visit www.sikawatertightconcrete.co.uk

End

Story Ref: CPR168 Luton Dunstable Busway

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Note to Editors:

Sika Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sika AG, a global company located in Baar, Switzerland, supplying specialty chemicals markets. It is a leader in processing materials used in sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting load-bearing structures in construction and industry. Sika is committed to quality, service, safety and environmental care and has subsidiaries in more than 73 countries worldwide with 12 900 employees generating annual sales of CHF 4.6 billion.
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Photograph attached:

CGI of White Lion Retail Park Bus Stop

The first ‘L’ shaped beams being placed in position