

Network Rail Approves DIGISYSTEM



Summary

Network Rail has approved DIGISYSTEM for use on Britain's railways

Customer

Network Rail

Approved for use on railways

Following extensive testing, the UK's Network Rail has approved the DIGISYSTEM from Leica Geosystems for use on Network Rail's infrastructure. DIGISYSTEM comprises DIGICAT™ cable locator and its companion DIGITEX™ transmitter. This latest approval enables companies not only to use DIGISYSTEM on railway maintenance contracts, but also provides the opportunity to directly specify DIGISYSTEM in similar projects.

(Above):DIGICAT™ in action

A mission to deliver a safer network

Network Rail is the operator of Britain's rail infrastructure. Its mission is to maintain, improve and upgrade the railway fit for the 21st century. It is tasked with delivering a reliable and safe rail network. Safety is its primary concern and it spends £14 million a day to maintain, improve and upgrade every aspect of the railway infrastructure.

(Below): the symbol denoting Network Rail approval



"Network Rail sets a stringent benchmark for equipment to ensure safety for both its customers and maintenance partnership employees working Trainside. Approval of Digisystem confirms that this product meets these exacting safety standards and helps partner companies achieve the level of safe working practices needed.

*Richard Fling
Product Manager
Cable Detection*

Long history of safety approval

Network Rail has maintained a safety approval authority for all electronic equipment used on trackside property for many years. This authority is designed to support the safety policies and requirements of the railway industry, which are in place to protect the industry, those who work in it and the travelling public. In turn, it ensures that such equipment does not interfere with other electronic systems or safety equipment or present a hazard to the safe operation of the trains and safety systems used by the industry. Network Rail is committed to safety and takes railway systems, equipment and passenger safety very seriously, so approval of equipment is not given lightly.

Choice of suppliers means value for money

As well as Leica's products Network Rail also permits the use of other cable avoidance tools that are used for the same purpose. DIGISYSTEM is hailed as a competitively priced, user-friendly alternative and since its addition to the approved list of equipment options, contractors have more choice to choose the best tool for the job. Because DIGISYSTEM can be used on multiple jobs it soon becomes an attractive tool to own especially since there is no longer an obligation to hire or purchase other Network Rail approved equipment specifically for trackside use. Leica Geosystems have come up with a label that is clearly displayed on all DIGISYSTEM products so a contractor or customer can readily see that the tool is approved by Network Rail.

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(Right) Railway technician working with DIGICAT™ on the trackside



Safety by design

DIGISYSTEM was designed on a “safety-first” philosophy, which means the user cannot “tune out” signals or accidentally search in the wrong mode. Features highlighting these benefits include

- Default “Power mode” selection when turned on, for safety
- Fully automatic sensitivity setting, no adjustments needed
- Audio and visual display of signal reception
- A choice of frequencies for tracing of signals in “crowded” areas

So, there is plenty of scope to use DIGISYSTEM to locate the plan position, survey and trace the position of existing buried utility lines, power distribution and communication cables - all enhancing the safety of construction and other workers.

Setting the standard in worker safety

Other countries look to the UK to provide a benchmark for their own working practices and standards so it is easy to see the potential for use of DIGISYSTEM wherever local standards follow Network Rail. A typical construction project such as the erection or maintenance of a structure on a trackside location carries a legal requirement, under the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974, for the contractor to ensure that all staff are trained to Network Rail standards and only using equipment approved for trackside use. Where the construction activity requires the ground to be excavated, the safety of the staff and process can be assured by using the DIGICAT™ Locator to avoid buried utility lines.

www.leica-geosystems.com
www.cabledetection.com
www.networkrail.co.uk