

## HAUC(UK) CASE STUDY

### CASE STUDY 3: WMHAUC

HAUC(UK) was established in 1986 and is made up of two organisations, the Joint Authorities Group (representing local authorities from across the UK) and the National Joint Utilities Group (representing UK utilities and their contractors). The Committee's purpose is to assist the Secretary of State for Transport and his colleagues with matters relating to road (local authority) and street (utility) works, and associated legislation. The main aims of HAUC(UK) are:

- To advise the Secretary of State on issues relating to street works legislation;
- To provide guidance to practitioners;
- To provide a forum for matters of mutual interest in relation to road and street works.

HAUC(UK)'s role is *"To act as one voice delivering excellence in road and street works"*, with the following vision:

- To be a united UK-wide organisation promoting trust and fostering honest dialogue across the industry;
- To be a partner with governments in leading the transformation of the roads and street works industry to consistently improve performance.

This case study is an example of HAUC(UK) delivering on this vision.

#### Summary:

The West Midland Highway Authority and Utility Committee (WMHAUC) represents a partnership between Highway Authorities, utilities and contractors, established ten years ago through the combined efforts of Birmingham City Council, Solihull Council, Worcestershire County Council, Carillion, and Prestige Hire.

The West Midlands HAUC Road Show takes place every Autumn, with over 1,000 regular attendees and 100 exhibitors, which looks to promote best practice in new ways and also unite the street and road works industry.



## Scope and influence of this case study:

The aim of the event is to provide interactive, innovative and informative stands and speakers, promoting best practice and uniting Highway Authorities (HA's), utilities, contractors and suppliers – to ensure that key messages are spread and delivered more effectively.

Delegates are offered the chance to visit stands promoting safety and quality in street works with the opportunity to see practical demonstrations and exchange advice and guidance in improved processes with industry experts.

In 2008 the West Midlands HAUC Road Show celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with its annual two-day event held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September. As a free event, the sponsors, organising committee, over 100 exhibitors and 1100 delegates made the event a huge success.

Upon entry, delegates were given a starter pack, containing a programme of events, stands, seminars and fun quizzes to complete as they walked around the interactive exhibits. Delegates were also offered refreshments throughout the day and a free luncheon voucher for the hog roast.

## Outcomes:

Every year the event brings together a vast array of experience within the industry, allowing the sharing of best practice, the latest techniques, highway maintenance solutions and an open and honest forum in which to discuss current issues. In 2008 and 2009 the show also had the pleasure of an NJUG/JAG/HAUC(UK) stand where there was much interest in what these organisations were doing for the future to promote best practice in street works.



Amongst one of the exhibitors was the registered charity, 'Access Committee for Birmingham'. As well as supporting and providing free services for people with mobility issues, the stand also raised awareness of the issues that street works can cause, encouraging corporate responsibility. To date the charity have gained £2,500 worth of sponsorship from the WMHAUC Road Show and as a result is able to continue its good work.

There was also an array of outside stands and demonstrations to make all aware of current innovations and best practice to benefit utilities and Highway Authorities. For example, these highlighted the latest in reinstatement technology. Other demonstrations included the Coring Vac (National Grid), on site recycling (Balfour Beatty), and quick patch techniques (ASI and NUPhalt) amongst many others – all demonstrating good practice, and quicker techniques to reduce time spent occupying the highway.

Another main feature of every annual West Midlands HAUC Road Show are the presentations, where key speakers talk to delegates about the latest developments in road and street works. This often includes updates from the Department for Transport on the Safety, Inspections, and the Traffic Management Act 2004. Warwickshire Council and Staffordshire Council also speak about their proposal for a West Midlands permit scheme, while HAUC(UK) also offer updates on ongoing policy working, such as that being pursued on the need for accurate underground asset Records.

## Benefits:

Overall the event demonstrates year after year that Highway Authorities, utilities, contractors and suppliers can work together in bringing industry up to speed with the latest innovation and best practices, as well as offering a unique networking opportunity.

