

NEWS FROM ITS WORLD CONGRESS 2011 AS IT HAPPENS



Dailynews @

18th ITS World Congress

Orlando 2011

16-20 October 2011



19 October 2011

Clary broadens its horizons

Some seven decades after its foundation, uninterruptible power supply specialist Clary Corporation is broadening its interests beyond its traditional North American market.

The Monrovia, California-based company is about to make a concerted effort to penetrate the markets in Argentina and Chile, as well as looking to make inroads into Europe, Asia and Africa, says senior applications engineer and marketing manager Craig Bolden.



ZOOM

Looking further afield: Clary's Craig Bolden

It is also using the ITS World Congress to launch its new SP1250LX unit, which is around two-thirds the size of existing units and which the company says is the first in the industry to have both a digital signal processing chip that allows pulse width modulation and a risk chip that handles all the unit's auxiliary systems.

The importance of uninterruptible power supplies for traffic and other ITS applications is well understood, but Bolden says that around 95% of power-related problems stem from anomalies such as surges or brownouts rather than outright power cuts.

Nevertheless, repeated anomalies can have a prematurely 'ageing' effect on electronic systems, hastening the time when breakdowns begin and maintenance costs escalate.

As an example, he tells of a variable message sign (VMS) in Denver, Colorado that until January 2010 was suffering frequent surges as nearby luminaires illuminated and shut down at dusk and dawn. This was resulting in frequent breakdowns of the VMS that was costing Colorado DoT an astonishing \$5,000 weekly in maintenance – much of it in overtime costs as repair crews laid cones on the roadway approaching the site.

The insertion of one of Clary's UPS units completely solved the problem, he says, saving the DoT a considerable sum.

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