ESDAL is a one-stop web-based portal for assisted route planning and automated notification of Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) movements. In order to ensure that an abnormally wide, heavy or long load moving across Great Britain does not damage the roads or structures, or cause traffic chaos, it is vital that the hauliers take the most appropriate route.

Serco is contracted by the Highways Agency (HA) to design, supply and operate the ESDAL system which will:

- Allow successful management of abnormal indivisible load movements
- Create an assisted route-planning tool and automate the notification process
- Reduce the risk of damage due to unknown or unplanned loading from AILs
- Reduce the administrative burden and increase the certainty that notifications are being correctly handled

There are approximately 400,000 notifications of AIL movements to the HA and up to 1.5 million requests to the police for route assistance each year. In addition, there are 500 Special Order and 1000 Wide Load requests made to the dedicated HA AIL team each year. With approximately 2000 hauliers capable of transporting AILs by road, about 327 highway authorities and 54 police forces requiring notification, the organisational problems are substantial.

ESDAL will provide a common link between Police, Structure Owners, Hauliers and the HA. Using a web-based architecture, the system will ensure that there are no additional software or hardware costs for users, and advanced spatial queries can be performed using the Oracle Database spatial functions.

Serco have developed a bespoke content management system that allows separate content to be configured on the 'public site' ([www.highways.gov.uk/esdal](http://www.highways.gov.uk/esdal)) and the portals. Within the portals it enables user type specific content, for example, different content can be made available to hauliers and the structure owners.
The contract has been delivered and is now in full operation.

The contract includes a dedicated Help Desk facility for all stakeholders to contact for advice on how to use the system and to report any problems that they may have.

A huge data collection activity has taken place to ensure that all relevant bridges and other structures in the UK are correctly identified and geo-located. We believe that this is the first time data from many structure owners has been combined into a common database. This data is now in an update cycle to make sure that the latest and most accurate data is always available.

This contract demonstrates Serco's capability to understand Stakeholder requirements, specify national databases and interface with local authorities.

The ESDL System Portals:

The ESDL system supports a number of secure Portals and provides all the necessary functionality to the user groups, namely:

- Haulier Portal
- Police Portal
- Structure Owners Portal
- Management Information System Portal

System Overview

The use of Web technologies within ESDL allows for hardware/software load balancing making optimal use of the available hardware. The system can be expanded in capacity simply by adding computers and the software architecture employed can run across any number of computers without modification to the software.

Using technology to reduce congestion and carbon emissions, increase safety and journey quality

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