National Level Data Collection
For a National Project

Steve Birdsall FCIHT
Chief Executive
Gaist Mission:
Make the UK highways networks the world's most understood highways network.
To collect all speed restriction signs and speed related markings over 16,000km for 19 of the 22 Welsh Highways Authorities (LHA).
16,200 kms
Timescales.

Contacted in 24th Jan 2023

Commercial Discussions began 14th Feb 2023

Statement of works agreed 18th March 2023

First data delivered 1st April 2023

Last data delivered 11th August 2023
Why Gaist?

- The capacity to collect data within the WG tight timescales
- Have experience of comparable national level surveys – on time & on budget in UK and Overseas
- £1 million less than alternative suppliers that couldn’t meet deadlines (30% of nearest quote)
- The ability to provide additional added value data
Why Gaist?

- 14 Vehicle fleet.
- Total capacity to collect up to 2800km per day (Edinburgh to Malta)
- ISO Accredited quality, safety and data security systems
Inventory Collection

Dataset: Signs
Condition: Grade 1
Mounting: Fence
Number of: 670
Class: Regulatory
Illuminate: No
Image Link: Open
Video Link: Open
Difficulties.

• Confusion over the network to be surveyed. Delayed the deployment until a definitive network was issued. LHAs not confident in their own network information.

• The LHAs had varying expectations of what the deliverables would be, despite demonstrations and statements of work being issued.

• Some Transport and Highways team didn’t collaborate and didn’t realise the benefits that could have been gained. However, others did.

• 19 different contracts, statements of work, networks, points of contact created unnecessary administrative overhead.
What went well.

RAMS framework – All LHAs called off from one framework. 19 separate procurement events for the same thing would have been a massive delay.

One data supplier, one standard agreed format – made TRO processing very straight forward

Delivered on time

Delivered within budget

Over half the LHAs extended the scope of the survey to include all signs, other assets and condition surveys making significant savings.
Recommendations.

- LHAs need support preparing network data before start of the survey well in advance
- A small pilot survey completed to demonstrate deliverables to all organisations well ahead of start date
- Procure one survey for all LHAs - Reduce the administration for all and avoid delays
- Collect the data well in advance of TRO processing. The data/imagery helps everyone at all stages.
- Opportunity for a national stock check of the entire asset base for minimal extra cost. The cost savings dwarf the collection cost. It will be the gift that keeps giving!
Thank You