

Working in partnership

Centaur offers a professional and impartial service to transport professionals, based on our understanding of policymakers, operators and suppliers. We have a strong reputation for encouraging a positive and cooperative approach among project and programme teams.

We pride ourselves on employing staff of the highest intellectual calibre. All of our consulting staff currently have higher degrees. We believe this has great benefits to the value and creativity of our services.

We place a greater emphasis on offering clients a creative and informed approach to problem solving and analysis than providing detailed technical expertise and implementation services.

As a matter of policy we seek to work cooperatively, both with our clients, and with other consultancies where teaming will provide the best range of skills to our client. We regularly work in multidisciplinary teams with other leading consultancies and with individual experts.



Transport consultants are not all the same.

For further information please contact:

Mark Cartwright
Centaur Consulting
Surrey Technology Centre
Surrey Research Park
Guildford, Surrey
GU2 7YG
United Kingdom

tel: +44 (0) 1483 688270
fax: +44 (0) 1483 688271
email: mark.cartwright@centaurconsulting.co.uk

Transport consultancy - time to innovate

Transport in the UK is changing.

And new challenges need a new approach to consulting.

The UK boasts many transport consultants who can fulfil the traditional roles: transport planning, project management, public consultation and scheme evaluation. There is much less capability and experience in the newer areas: research management, integrated transport, intelligent transport systems, public-private partnerships.

Centaur Consulting fulfils the needs of this new, strategic, niche. We offer a professional and impartial service, based on a unique combination of exceptional intellect and creativity, and a blend of experience in a range of areas.

Challenges, old and new....

It is widely understood that it will take a number of years for the UK to achieve fully-managed integrated transport with fully-informed travellers. Achieving these ends will raise many challenges: some familiar, others not so familiar.

It will require the active participation of a wide range of public and private organisations: highways authorities, public transport operators, vehicle manufacturers and distributors, the telematics systems industry and policymakers in central and local Government.

It will require the development of close working partnerships between different actors: planners and designers, network operators, car park managers, the IT department, and of course the travelling public.

And it will require new understandings of the potential of technologies, and the associated responsibilities, cooperation agreements and skills needs, capital and operational costs.

Different actors, different questions

How do I work with a limited budget?

It is easy to set a creative and innovative plan; harder to make it fit within a shrinking budget. Getting the right approach requires an understanding of both transport and finance.

How do I work with my partners?

There is increasingly a need for organisations to cooperate to deliver transport policy. PPP or supply chain partnership may help, but how do you negotiate a partnership you can trust?

Are current systems and practices sufficient to support key policy aims?

Only by careful review can it be determined whether more needs to be done to support the uptake, where appropriate, of new transport management and information tools.

What research needs to be done, and how should it be steered?

Research programme management is a specialist skill. Research programmes need to be clearly scoped to meet overall objectives, and projects guided carefully to ensure that they meet programme objectives.

How can I engage with stakeholders?

Talking to the client community is critical, to refine requirements and ensure buy-in. Plans, projects and studies must be communicated to stakeholders; but this must be done with sensitivity to potential political implications, and at an appropriate level of detail.

How do I integrate my current systems and processes? Transport policy objectives are becoming complex. Better integration of existing systems presents a major opportunity, but defining the benefits, options and priorities can be hard - particularly where there are legacy systems.

How can Centaur help?

Centaur has undertaken a wide variety of assignments within the transport sector, in both national and local authority transport environments. Our projects have ranged from policy support, through feasibility studies, cost-benefit analysis, and research programme management, to procurement support and the negotiation of new partnerships.

Among our wide-ranging experience we can particularly note the following:

- Co-ordination of transport technology research and demonstrator programmes for central Government
- Review and development of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) strategy for local authorities
- Conduct of feasibility studies for UK, European projects and regional government
- Facilitation of local authority and industry groups to enable the sharing of best practice
- Support throughout the procurement process including monitoring of performance and evaluation following contract award
- Assessment of the current standards provision and analysis of where gaps or limitations in may exist
- Negotiated procedure procurement and the creation of public-private partnerships, for local authorities and industry groups



In addition, clients often find it valuable that we can bring our wider experience from elsewhere in the public sector - with the police, with research and higher education and with broadcasting and telecommunications regulators.