

RouteScan - instant structure gauging

Abtus - redefining tunnel profiling and a lot more.

Last year, Abtus celebrated 100 years of excellence in the railway surveying sector. With the New Year only a few weeks old, the company is already well on its way to making the next 100 years just as successful as the last.

Its philosophy has always been one of development through consultation and the importance of listening to customer requirements, and acting on those needs, is demonstrated with Abtus' latest innovation - RouteScan.

Structure measuring

For too long, railway engineers have been without a mainstream solution for accurately measuring structure clearances. This has, in part, been down to the cost of current laser scanning equipment, but is also due to the complexity. The requirement for specialist training can prevent equipment from being widely adopted.

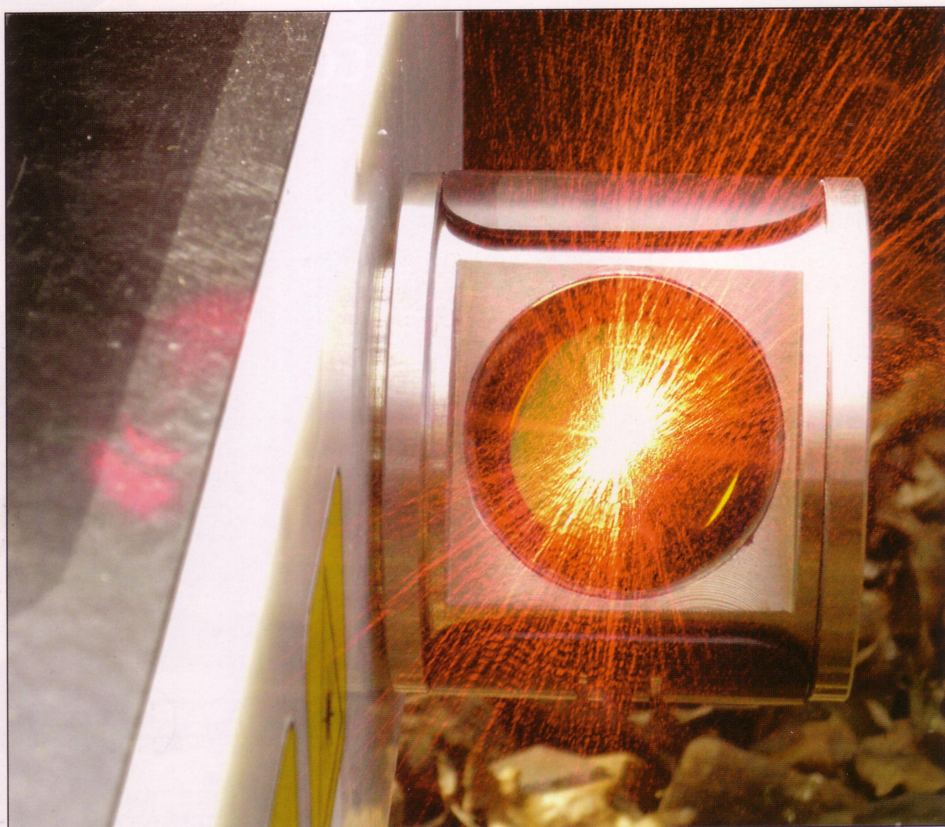
Now, following months of detailed discussion and consultation with Network Rail's Track Geometry and Gauging NST (National Specialist Team), a new laser scanner called RouteScan is available. An affordable price tag and an intuitive operating procedure brings this product within reach of every railway worker.

The challenge faced by Abtus was to design a gauge that not only satisfied the exacting technical demands laid down by Network Rail, but one which would also significantly reduce the time on track and provide a simple means of collecting reliable data.

The result is a product where perceived simplicity disguises technical excellence.

Ease of use

Set-up really could not be easier. RouteScan self-locates on the track and is exceptionally light. Weighing only 9.5kg, this makes it suitable for use in areas of live traffic. It is fully non-conductive, which prevents track circuit problems and makes it safe for use in



areas with live conductor rails or OHL.

RouteScan is operated via Bluetooth from a PDA. While the user interface is simple to use, there is a rich variety of options and settings to provide versatility to the user. This makes RouteScan suitable for all clearance gauging needs - from scanning tunnels to measuring platforms, OHL and datum plates.

Different modes

In single point mode, the laser dot can be controlled using the PDA from a position of safety or manually pointed at a specific point. An integrated tilt-sensor means

measurements can be taken in a relative or an absolute frame of reference. Track gauge is also recorded with every measurement.

In profile mode, RouteScan automatically scans a structure - the scan range and resolution can be predefined by the user. The high grade optical and laser components used in RouteScan reduces the average time taken to complete a profile to under two minutes.

Data from RouteScan is compatible with both Excel and ClearRoute and is easily transferred to a PC via a USB device.

Flexible and adaptable

The construction of the gauge has been designed to enable RouteScan to be adapted to suit various track gauges and makes it suitable for use on embedded rail.

Chris Down, Operations Director, Abtus, said: 'I am incredibly excited by RouteScan - it is a real opportunity to make a difference to the way track work is carried out. This product is going to dramatically reduce the time taken to sign off design changes and hand track back on completion of work.'

Already recognised as a global supplier of innovative, quality rail surveying products, Abtus looks forward to RouteScan further enhancing its comprehensive range of products for rail use.



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