Worksite Protection

Ninehundred Communications Group

Lighting Towers That Outperform the Competition

Trackside maintenance crews working in low light face real risks: missed defects, increased accidents and fatigued workers. 900 Communications' high-output LED lighting towers are changing what's possible.

As the nights draw in and the clocks go back, the rail industry faces a familiar yet critical challenge – ensuring the safety and efficiency of night-time operations. For trackside maintenance and inspection crews, the shorter, darker days of winter amplify the inherent risks of working in low-light conditions. Inadequate lighting isn't just an inconvenience; it's a direct threat to worker safety, operational reliability and the quality of essential maintenance. For rail infrastructure managers still relying on legacy lighting solutions, the message is clear: it's time for an upgrade.

Since 1979, 900 Communications has been dedicated to meeting the evolving needs of various sectors, and a key part of this has been its commitment to providing comprehensive solutions that solve real-world problems. With over 45 years of experience in high-performance lighting, the company understands the unique demands of harsh environments like construction sites, quarries and especially, rail depots and trackside locations.

The High Stakes of Poor Illumination in Rail

Routine inspections at rail junctions are vital for maintaining the safety, reliability and operational performance of the network. However, conducting these inspections at night presents a host of challenges that traditional lighting solutions often fail to address:

- **Limited visibility across complex track layouts:** Poor lighting can obscure a clear view of the track, making it difficult to spot defects or hazards
- **Increased risk of slips, trips and falls:** Uneven ground, cables and other obstacles are much harder to see in low light, significantly increasing the risk of accidents
- **Reduced accuracy during inspections:** The quality of maintenance work can be compromised when technicians cannot see clearly, leading to missed defects and potential future failures
- **Additional strain on frontline workers:** Working in poorly lit environments can cause eye strain and fatigue, impacting the well-being and performance of staff

As Rail Account Manager Mark Boddy notes, "Inadequate lighting on track can compromise critical safety measures, including the prevention of slips, trips and falls. It can also negatively impact the reliability and quality of essential maintenance activities."

Legacy lighting solutions often fall short, lacking sufficient brightness, taking too long to deploy, or failing to provide the consistent, wide-area illumination that is essential for safe and effective trackside work.

The UK's leading LED Lighting Towers

900 Communications has engineered a new generation of lighting towers designed to overcome these challenges. Its mobile and static lighting towers aren't just an incremental improvement; they represent a step-change in trackside illumination. The company is proud to offer what it believes to be the brightest LED lighting towers in the UK, a claim supported by extensive customer feedback and compelling performance data.

When comparing lumen output, 900's units significantly outperform the competition. While typical competitor lighting towers provide approximately 80,000–90,000 lumens, its units deliver a powerful 240,000 lumens (mobile) or 262,500 lumens (static). This exceptional brightness has a transformative effect on the trackside environment, creating a safe, daylight-simulated workspace that enhances both safety and productivity.

The practical benefits of this superior illumination are clear. As Rail Account Manager Ben Ryan explains, *"Improved lighting levels that closely resemble daylight conditions make it significantly easier to identify track defects and loose components. This was recently demonstrated at a Network Rail site, where loose components were identified during the very first shift in which the lighting tower was deployed."*

In many cases, customers have been able to replace two or three conventional lighting towers with a single 900 Communications unit, leading to substantial cost savings and a reduced on-site footprint.

Rapid Deployment and Operational Efficiency

In the fast-paced rail environment, deployment speed and ease of use are critical. 900 Communications' lighting towers are designed for rapid, single-person setup, with a typical deployment time of just 5–10 minutes per unit. Subject to location and availability, it can often deliver units the next day, and in some cases, the same day, ensuring that customers have the light they need, when they need it.

For junction lighting applications, towers can be installed on a semi-permanent or permanent basis within a 'V' or the cess. While initial placement in challenging conditions may require the use of a road-rail vehicle (RRV), once installed, the units can be easily started and operated by site staff during each shift. This straightforward operation minimises disruption and ensures that your teams can focus on the task at hand.

Transforming Night-Time Operations at Glasgow Central Station

The effectiveness of 900 Communications' lighting solutions has been proven in some of the UK's most demanding rail environments. At Glasgow Central Station, one of the busiest transport hubs in the country, maintaining safe and effective night-time operations is essential. The deployment of its 900 Eco Mobile Lighting Tower transformed low-light conditions into a safe, daylight-simulated working environment, demonstrating the real-world impact of the technology.

The Glasgow trial has been highly successful. Although the initial deployment required isolations and RRVs due to the complexity of working within a major city station, the unit has remained on site long-term and additional funding has been sought to procure further units. This success story is a testament to the reliability, performance and value of these lighting solutions.

A Commitment to Sustainability

900 Communications is dedicated to minimising the environmental impact of its operations, and in 2020 launched its 'Eco-Friendly' division to support a product range that helps customers reduce their carbon footprints.

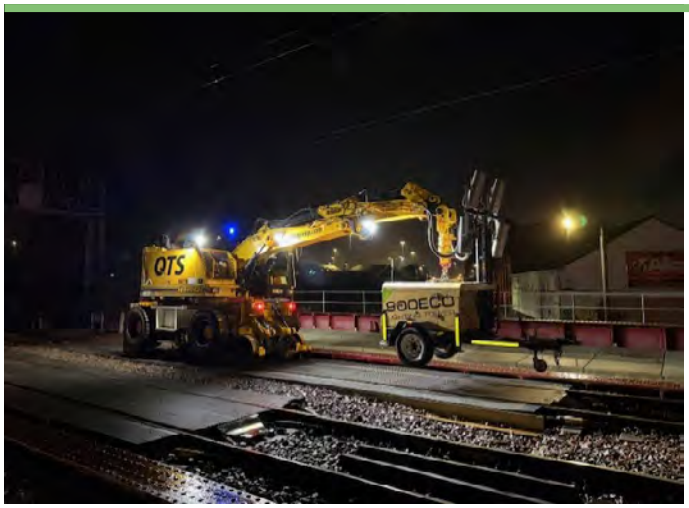
While its lighting towers are diesel-powered to achieve their exceptionally high light output, they are fully compatible with HVO fuel, a more sustainable alternative to conventional diesel. Furthermore, because a single 900 Communications lighting tower can replace two to three conventional units, overall fuel consumption and on-site space requirements are significantly reduced.

By choosing 900 Communications lighting solutions, you're not only improving safety and efficiency, but also making a positive contribution to your sustainability goals.

Prepare for the Darker Nights Ahead

As the rail industry prepares for the darker nights of winter, the time to address inadequate lighting is now. With over 45 years of experience, 900 Communications is your trusted partner for high-performance, eco-conscious lighting solutions. Its lighting towers are engineered to provide the flexible, durables and powerful illumination you need to keep your sites safe and your operations running smoothly.

Don't let inadequate lighting compromise the safety of your workers and the quality of your maintenance activities. Contact 900 Communications today to learn more about how our industry-leading lighting solutions can transform your night-time operations via sales@ninehundred.co.uk, 0845 600 4 900, or https://www.ninehundred.co.uk/.



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