Mobile Variable Message Signs

Frequently Asked Questions

1: Where can a VMS be used?

A: VMS can be used on road construction work sites, mine sites, sporting event venues, public events, shopping complexes, airports, markets, on council roads and on main inter state highways.

2: What traffic speed zones are the VMS suited for?

A:
- PCMS4880RC: Up to 50km/hr
- PCMS548VT: Up to 60km/hr
- PCMS320RC: Greater than 90km/hr
- PCMS320RTRC: Greater than 90km/hr

3: What technology is used to display the messages on the VMS display?

A: The range of Ver-Mac VMS trailers use different arrays and types of high brightness Light Emitting Diodes (LED):
- PCMS4880RC: 2.3mm Surface Mount Device
- PCMS548VT: 500 Through Hole
- PCMS320RC: 5mm Through Hole with Light Diffuser Hood
- PCMS320RTRC: 4mm Through Hole

4: What colour are the LED's?

A:
- PCMS4880RC: Amber
- PCMS548VT: Amber
- PCMS320RC: RGB - Full Colour

5: How many pixels make up the entire display screen on the VMS?

A:
- PCMS4880RC: 48 x 80
- PCMS548VT: 30 x 56
- PCMS320RC: 30 x 48
- PCMS320RTRC: 30 x 48

6: When I look at the picture of the VMS, the pixels look like they are several lights joined together, why is this?

A: Each model in the range of Ver-Mac VMS trailers has a different arrangement of LEDs to create an individual pixel. This makes each pixel large enough to be easily viewed from the required distance and to produce the required amount of light:
- PCMS4880RC: 1 Amber LED per pixel
- PCMS548VT: 4 Amber LEDsa per pixel
- PCMS320RC: 4 Amber LEDs per pixel
- PCMS320RTRC: 10 LEDs per pixel: 4 red, 3 green, 3 blue

Frequently Asked Questions continued

7: What are the dimmensions of the VMS display screens?

A: - PCMS4880RC: 946mm x 1422mm
- PCMS548VT: 1146mm x 2027mm
- PCMS320RC: 1605mm x 2497mm
- PCMS320RTRC: 1680mm x 2648mm

8: Can the VMS display different fonts and different sized fonts? How much text can be displayed?

A: Each model of the Ver-Mac VMS range can display a variety of different fonts and font sizes. The smaller the font, the more text that can be displayed on screen:

- PCMS4880RC: from 16 chars wide, 8 lines high to 3 chars wide
- PCMS548VT: from 11 chars wide, 5 lines high to 2 chars wide
- PCMS320RC: from 9 chars wide, 5 lines high to 2 chars wide
- PCMS320RTRC: from 9 chars wide, 5 lines high to 2 chars wide

9: What is a matrix?

A: A matrix is a grid of LEDs allocated to form a text character on the VMS display screen.

10: How does the display cope with brightness during bright sunlight days or dark nights?

A: The VMS has an auto brightness sensor built into the display that detects the ambient light in the environment around the VMS and will adjust the brightness accordingly. Bright LEDs during the day to compensate for the extra ambient light and less bright during the night.

11: Can I manually adjust the display brightness?

A: Yes, provided you connect via remote access you can set the VMS to manual brightness and set the brightness to the desired level.

12: I noticed the VMS display has glass on the front, will this break?

A: It's not gass, it's a polycarbonate called Lexan which is very tough and durable. This protects the LED display and also keeps the display weather tight.

13: What is the weatherproof or environmental protection level of the VMS?

A: Each trailer is rated at IP55. This means the trailer is protected against dust and against low pressure jets of water from all directions.

14: I noticed that the display screen has a slight frost look, why is that?

A: The polycarbonate display screen has had an anti-glare (anti sun glare) process added to it. This effect helps cut down on sun reflecting off the display screen making messages clear and to prevent sun reflection potentially causing a hazard to motorists.

15: Is the polycarbonate bullet proof?

A: A common question. No it isn't. Polycarbonate can withstand a fair amount of punish ment from weather and small slow speed projectiles like stones.

Frequently Asked Questions continued

16: Where does the VMS get its power from?

A: The Ver-Mac VMS range utilise sealed lead acid gel electrolyte batteries for power storage and arrays of photovoltaic solar panels for charging. Mains power chargers are also fitted if the trailer has not had sufficient exposure to sunlight and requires a top up charge. Various configurations of solar panels and betteries are available to meet your requirements.

17: How much do the VMS trailers weigh?

A: - PCMS4880RC: 640kg
- PCMS548VT: 640kg
- PCMS320RC: 960KG
- PCMS320RTRC: 1080kg

18: The trailer is fairly heavy, do they have brakes to assist with stopping?

A: Every Ver-Mac VMS trailer has a hand operated trailer brake for keeping the trailer stationary when not in transit. The PCMS320RC and PCMS320RTRC are also fitted with a mechanical override braking system to aid with braking while the trailer is being towed.

19: What are the overall dimmensions of the VMS?

All in mm	Overall Length	Overall Width	Travel Height	Operating Height
PCMS4880RC	1899(2636 travel)	1487	2356	4076
PCMS548VT	3565	1791	2417	4081
PCMS320RC	3747	2096	2754	4584
PCMS320RTRC	3829	2096	2854	4705

20: How is the display raised and lowered?

A: Using an electric hydraulic pump. The operator simply presses a button to raise or lower the display.

21: When the display is raised, how high is the top of the VMS?

A: See 'Operating Height' at question 19 above

22: Can the VMS display face different directions in relation to the fixed trailer chassis?

A: Yes. The VMS displays can face any direction within 360 degrees but it cannot continually rotate in one direction due to the power and data cables.

23: Are the VMS 'STREAMS' compatible?

A: Not at this point. There is currently development work in place to allow for this option.

Frequently Asked Questions continued

24: How long does the VMS trailer operate for on batteries?

A: Each trailer can be uniquely customised to meet specific needs and requirements with regard to battery storage capacity and solar panel power recharging. The other main factor that affects battery life is what is being displayed on the screen. If the image(s) displayed have a lot of dense graphics there will be increased power draw from the batteries. Screen brightness will also affect the power draw of the sign. Considering all of the above, you could expect the following ranges of battery life:

- PCMS4880RC: 66-132 hours
- PCMS548VT: 109-218 hours
- PCMS320RC: 95-168 hours
- PCMS320RTRC: 94-378 hours

25: What standard are the VMS designed to?

A: AS 4852.2, Variable Message Signs - Portable Signs

26: Can the VMS display pictures?

A: For the amber VMS trailers (PCMS4880RC, PCMS548VT & PCMS320RC), they can display images of sorts. Due to the Full Matrix Graphics Display they can display very low resolution graphic images. The colour trailer (PCMS320RTRC) can display full colour graphic images.