

MIDDLE EAST

### Qatar hero

The first Over-Height Vehicle Detection System (OVDS) in Qatar has been launched at the Duhail intersection.

The new system will help impose greater control over trucks and protect bridges and tunnels, the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) said yesterday. The OVDS detects vehicles that violate the maximum permitted height of 5.5m before entering tunnels, or passing under bridges.

Any violation turns on the warning sirens to avoid the risk of trucks damaging tunnels' roofs, putting the security and safety of road users at risk and damaging the bridges. The Road Operation and Maintenance Department at Ashghal is studying the possibility of introducing the OVDS at more intersec-

tions across Doha. All components of the system work together to detect trucks that violate the legal height.

The system operates in such a way that in the event of any over-height vehicle trying to enter the interchange, the system will alert the vehicle through a siren audible at the site, followed by a multi-lingual text message that appear on the electronic board at the site.

At the same time, the traffic signal at the approach will turn red through the control room to prevent the vehicle from entering the interchange. If the vehicle is not following the warning orders, the control room will immediately contact the Traffic Department to take steps to prevent the vehicle from entering the interchange.

TRAFFIC INFORMATION

### INRIX, VW and the Connected Car

INRIX, the provider of traffic information and driver services, announced last week that Volkswagen is expanding adoption of INRIX real-time traffic information to all Golf models equipped with its Car-Net navigation service.

Initially introduced in the 2013 GTI and GTD models across Europe, the automaker is making INRIX traffic information available to owners of new Golf, Golf S, Golf SE, Golf Plus and the recently introduced 300 PS Golf R models in 17 European countries.

As the two companies collaborate to deliver the latest breakthroughs in connected car technology to millions of Volkswagen owners worldwide, INRIX provides them with insight into real time traffic conditions, travel times and the fastest routes as well as alerts to better routes for navigating around accidents, road works, closures and other traffic-causing delays.

"Global climate change, economic upheaval and increasing urbanisation are forcing automakers to take a fresh

approach to personal mobility," said Andreas Hecht, INRIX Vice President and General Manager of Automotive. "Together with Volkswagen we're unlocking new possibilities for improving mobility through the latest advancements in daily navigation and other driver services."

According to the INRIX Traffic Scorecard, drivers in Europe are on pace to waste an average of 35 hours in 2013 in traffic. However, drivers in large urban areas like London and Paris waste up to 80 hours annually in gridlock.

For the first time, Volkswagen real-time navigation owners can navigate around the day's traffic jams through real-time analysis of traffic conditions on more than one million kilometres of roads across Europe. INRIX analyses real-time data from a unique combination of sources including road sensors, accident and incident reports, weather, local events and the company's own crowd-sourced network of nearly 100 million of vehicles and devices.

BELARUS

### Belarus extends ETC system

The Electronic Tolling System implemented by Kapsch TrafficCom in Belarus will be extended this month. Since launching commercially in August 2013, the tolling system has had an enormous impact in Belarus, with the number of registered users to date standing at approximately 160,000. Therefore, because of the high usage, the system has been extended by 118 km from 1 January 2014.

The January expansion covers a segment of the

M-4 Minsk to Mogilev road. This extension will mean that the total length of the Kapsch operated toll roads in Belarus will increase to 933 km. The expansion will mean the installation of 11 additional tolling and enforcement gantries. There will also be an additional two new customer service points opened in the Minsk region along the tolling route, both with 24/7 opening hours.

Kapsch received the order for the implementation and operation of a

nationwide electronic toll collection system in Belarus in February 2012. The system is based on dedicated short-range communication (DSRC) and operations are scheduled for a period of 20 years.

Since the launch of Electronic Tolling in summer 2013, the number of monthly transactions has risen to 169,000 in November 2013. with drivers from Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland and Russia have all registered for the Tolling System.

H3B NEWS

### Thinking Cities magazine

H3B Media, publishers of *Thinking Highways*, have announced a new title in collaboration with Polis, the European Network of Cities and Regions.

*Thinking Cities*, which focuses on smart transport solutions for cities and regions, was launched at the Polis Annual Conference in Brussels in December, with a 80-page preview edition, but the first full edition, consisting of over 170 pages of content structured within four thematic sections and featuring contributions from Barcelona, Frankfurt, Torino, London, Rotterdam and Toyota City in Japan, will be available in both print and online formats by 1 February 2014.

Go to [www.thinkingcities.com](http://www.thinkingcities.com) for more information and to register for your free copy.

