

PRESS RELEASE

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BridgeWatch® Modular makes critical structure monitoring affordable to all asset managers

- **Straininstall announces a new version of its BridgeWatch® service – trusted by the owners and operators of some of the world’s most strategically important infrastructure – bringing a breakthrough in affordability**
- **The new BridgeWatch® Modular puts this technology within the reach of asset managers of safety- and commercially-critical bridges, tunnels and buildings of all sizes**
- **BridgeWatch® Modular provides the peace of mind, safety and security of remote structural monitoring for a fixed monthly fee and with zero set-up and capital equipment costs**

Straininstall’s BridgeWatch® is deployed on some of the world’s largest and most strategically important infrastructure to provide real-time remote monitoring information and warnings of impending structural issues. In doing so it helps operators protect public safety and enable cost savings through planned and proactive maintenance. BridgeWatch® is used to protect major bridges across the UK motorway network, as well as strategic infrastructure such as its planned deployment on Scotland’s new Forth Crossing.

Until now the capital costs of implementation has tended to restrict the use of remote monitoring technology to higher value strategic infrastructure. In order to make its benefits available to the public and private sector operators of smaller buildings, bridges and tunnels, Straininstall is today announcing the latest generation of its service, known as BridgeWatch® Modular.

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With zero set-up, installation and equipment costs, customers of the new BridgeWatch® Modular service contract to pay a fixed monthly fee for remote structural monitoring. In exchange they receive online accessible reports of their structures, customised to their own specific requirements – including, for example, the use of SMS or e-mail alarms as an alert to signs of possible structural problems. All equipment is installed and maintained by Straininstall and remains its responsibility, so costs are entirely predictable and fixed from the outset.

“The launch of this next-generation BridgeWatch® Modular service is an exciting step-forward in extending the benefits of remote structural monitoring to smaller bridges, tunnels and other safety or commercially critical infrastructure,” commented Simon Whitford, managing director of Straininstall Monitoring. “Capital budget restrictions may prevent the remote monitoring of structures where its use could have provided tangible benefits. For example, structures may have been closed to the public prematurely or worse, experienced unexpected disruptive, expensive and potentially dangerous failures, where better advanced knowledge of their condition might have enabled proactive maintenance to reduce costs and safely extend operational life.”

“In designing the new BridgeWatch® Modular service we have eliminated all capital costs, and are offering remote monitoring for a fixed monthly fee,” he continues. “This is much easier for hard-pressed public and private sector operators to budget for against the benefits they receive, not least in terms of the peace of mind that they have protected public safety and can proactively maintain their structures using world-class remote monitoring technology. BridgeWatch® Modular is also flexible in terms of installation, and Straininstall can provide a range of options from a self-install package through to a full turnkey solution – it is all in the hands of the customer.”

A further significant benefit that customers of the new BridgeWatch® Modular service can access is the provision – at a very modest additional cost – of periodic visual inspections of the monitored elements within BridgeWatch® protected structures. As Straininstall’s highly qualified

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and experienced engineers make periodic visits to maintain the installed monitoring equipment as part of the BridgeWatch® Modular service, they can also capture a visual record of the monitored element without having to arrange additional visits.

“We believe that this additional service will be extremely attractive to customers,” adds Simon Whitford. “Owners and operators of smaller structures often struggle to carry out their own regular visual inspections within tight budgetary constraints. The fact that we have Straininstall engineers visiting our monitored sites on a regular basis, makes this a highly affordable optional extension to the BridgeWatch® Modular service. As such we can provide at low cost, valuable qualitative information to augment the remote monitoring data.”

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Notes to editors:

About Straininstall:

Straininstall Monitoring, part of the James Fisher and Sons plc group, is a structural monitoring expert. With offices in the UK (near Bath and Cambridge), Middle East (Dubai) and South East Asia (Singapore and Kuala Lumpur), it has long been associated with the design and installation of specialist structural monitoring systems – provided to the customer through its innovative BridgeWatch® application – and has over 45 years' experience in assisting industries to operate safely by ensuring that structures, equipment and infrastructure are safe to use. Through continuous innovation and development Straininstall has a range of world-class monitoring technologies that continuously monitor physical and performance parameters such as load, stress, temperature, acceleration, pressure and displacement. In addition to critical structures on shore, to date, Straininstall has completed over 30 structural health monitoring installations on off-shore wind turbine structures. For more information see www.straininstall.com

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