

Power to the council

SunMast is a solar-powered street light designed to generate more power than it uses and feed it back into the electricity grid at a profit. It was developed by Scotia UK, a joint venture between Danish solar-powered lighting developer Scotia and KN Network Services, a civil engineering, communications and electrical engineering services firm specialising in renewable energy, and based in the UK and Ireland.

The SunMast was first installed on the site of the disappointing 2009 Copenhagen Climate Conference (COP15), where it demonstrated the feasibility of zero-emission street lighting. It is being trialled in the UK by the Connect Plus consortium, which is upgrading and maintaining lighting on the M25.

'The SunMast's leading edge in power capacity makes it the only viable solar street light for lighting main roads and highways,' says Peter Vissing, chief executive of Scotia. 'Generating energy and, therefore,

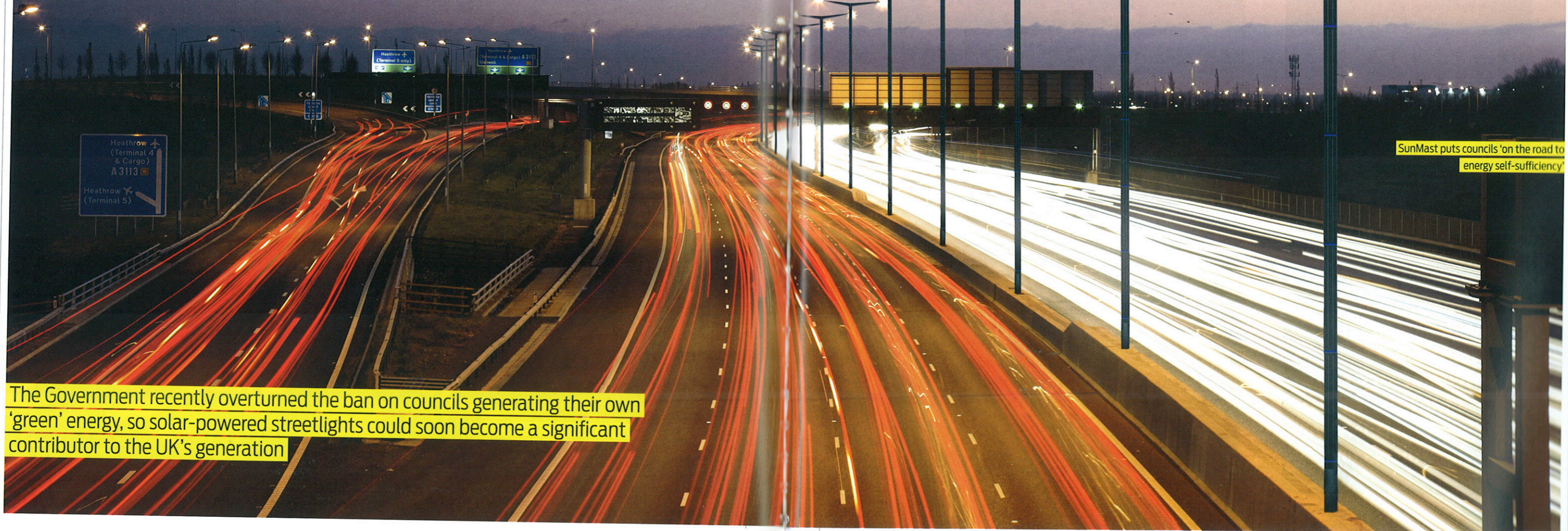
income means that hard-pressed councils now also have a way to cut emissions without compromising safety.'

The SunMast's photovoltaic panels, which are built into the body of the mast, are designed to work with any standard outdoor lamp as well as LEDs. Because the SunMast does not depend on batteries, which deplete quickly and require maintenance, it is reliable.

Aesthetically pleasing

Last but not least, the mast's simple linear form is aesthetically pleasing.

'With government cost-cutting and increasing concerns about rising energy bills, the time was right to join forces with KNNS to form Scotia UK,' says Vissing. 'The government has recently overturned a ban on councils producing their own green energy. Because the SunMast system generates renewable energy as part of the urban environment, it can put councils on the road to energy self-sufficiency.'



The Government recently overturned the ban on councils generating their own 'green' energy, so solar-powered streetlights could soon become a significant contributor to the UK's generation

SunMast puts councils 'on the road to energy self-sufficiency'