Car park | Photo source Omer Rana on Unsplash

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UK COMPANY MAKES SENSORS THAT COULD EASE PARKING CONGESTION

🇬🇧 TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Thin sensors could change the way people park in cities

Spotted:

UK-based Nwave's smart sensors use the Internet of Things (IoT) to improve parking efficiency. The sensors (roughly the size of a 1p coin) are installed on parking spaces. Because they communicate across a variety of existing apps and programs, drivers can use their smartphones to find parking spots. Nwave says it has installed 2,000 sensors in two years. The sensors are currently being used in cities including London, Coventry and Reading.

The information from the sensor goes to a server, where it is collected in real-time and can provide insights into driver behaviour. According to the company, the sensors are 10 times more accurate than other parking sensors, due to the fact that three different sensors and complex algorithms are used to calculate accurate vehicle data. The sensors have a high battery life of up to a decade, making maintenance easier.

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Takeaway:

Parking is a crucial component of urban planning. UK drivers spend an average of four days a year looking for parking spots, according to a British Parking Association survey. Sensors are a potential game-changer as urban planners seek to ease congestion. Information on driver behaviour could help them rethink city routes and find ways to reduce congestion -- lowering stress and helping the environment. More sophisticated parking schemes would theoretically follow, including the introduction of dynamic pricing with prices rising and falling based on demand. Smart sensors, connected to IoT are increasingly improving data-collection in nearly every sector of the economy. Springwise recently highlighted IoT sensors used to help farmers monitor water levels, improve the efficiency of urban planning, and keep bees safe.