At the time, the only information available on the traffic using the national road system came from counters which provided only numbers of vehicles: no information on axle or vehicle weights was generated. To effectively manage the road system, it is important that the traffic using the roads is correctly characterised. For example, the level of vehicle overloading in Ireland was not known. This has a particular relevance to road maintenance since pavement wear is proportional to the fourth power (or higher) of wheel loading. This traffic characterisation is also relevant to bridge loading, road safety and the setting of appropriate tolling levels.

The objectives of the project were to review the weigh-in-motion (WIM) technology available, to identify appropriate systems for use on Irish roads, and to provide guidance on how best to manage and use the information obtained. The WIM data will be used to characterise the traffic on the Irish national road network and provide information for TII’s asset management system. The project will run in conjunction with the installation and commissioning of six WIM systems (procured by TII under a separate contract).

An effective weigh-in-motion system would provide TII with accurate up-to-date information on axle and vehicle weights currently using the road system. This information would be used to:
- provide reliable information on wheel loading for TII's asset management system currently being developed
- provide information on bridge loading for more accurate assessment
- provide accurate information on overloading
- assist in enforcing legal weight limits and thus improve road safety.

Project outputs included:
- Guidance on establishing an effective weigh-in-motion system
- Procurement and installation of at least a WIM station
- Advice on data collection, management and utilisation.