

UDG Specifications and Standards Group Notes of a Meeting

Meeting particulars

Meeting held: 11:30 on 13 November 2007 by telephone conference

The following Group members were present:

- Derek Renaud, TfL *Chair*
- Mark Cartwright, Centaur Consulting *Secretary*
- Brent Collier, Sheffield CC
- Andrew Hancock, Stoke on Trent CC
- Ivan Wells, Highways Agency

The following Group members were not present:

- Martin Porter, Lancashire CC
- Laurie Egan, Norfolk CC
- Hamilton Purdie, Glasgow CC
- Gary Umpleby, Mott Macdonald (on behalf of USF)

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| 1 | Welcome and introductions | Action |
| 1.1 | DR welcomed AH and IW to the S&SG. The active participation of the Highways Agency in particular provides an excellent opportunity to ensure alignment in the development of UK systems standards. | |
| 2 | Minutes of last meeting and matters arising | |
| 2.1 | The minutes of the last meeting (28 September 2007) were accepted as an accurate record. | |
| 2.2 | <i>Paras 3.2 and 3.6:</i> An ANPR/JT workshop had been arranged for 19 November. HA had kindly agreed to host at NTCC. | |
| 2.3 | <i>Paras 3.5 and 3.7:</i> LE had tabled the incident management note and the unique identifiers note at the National Traffic Managers Forum, where they had been well received. These should now be amended to reflect this support, and passed to DfT (as well as round the UDG MG and USF) for consideration; they should be on the UDG MG agenda for its Jan 08 meeting. | MC |
| 2.4 | <i>Paras 3.8, 3.9 and 6.3:</i> These items were dependent on the follow-on support contract from DfT and had therefore not been progressed. MC/DR to arrange to meet Dave Williams and Wayne Duerden ASAP. | MC/DR |
| 2.5 | <i>Para 8.2:</i> There had been no news on this: action ongoing. MC to pursue. | MC |

3 Technical Secretary's report

- 3.1 The draft workplan for 2007-2009 was briefly reviewed and broadly welcomed. **All**
- 3.2 Nothing further had been received on the traffic counter MIB or the rising bollard MIB. MC will continue to chase. (It is noted that any costs arising would be dependent on the successful conclusion of a DfT support contract.) **MC**
- 3.3 Regarding the issue of junction identifiers, IW noted that the HA approach to this was by geographical reference, using TPEGloc as a reference standard. There was a discussion concerning the difference between location-based referencing and topological referencing. If the UK is to achieve full ability to cross-refer on nodes in other authorities, we effectively need standards to underpin a total, coherent UK road network model – this is a big step.
- 3.4 IW offered the services of TIH Working Group 4 (Location Referencing), for which the Champion is Helen Jones. We also have a contact within DfT who acts as a focal point for geographical information matters (Kate Thomas). MC to make contact. **MC**

4 Compliance

- 4.1 Since the agenda had been issued, we have received an initial enquiry about compliance for one product (from Amey). It is not clear whether this will result in a submission, rather than merely a place in the Product Register.

5 Product catalogue

- 5.1 The contract with Halcrow to produce a web-based product catalogue has now been initiated. MC circulated the design document which had just been received. Comments on the approach should be provided within the next week or so. **All**
- 5.2 It was confirmed that continuation beyond the first breakpoint is dependent on the DfT support contract.

6 Technical Specification update

- 6.1 Three sets of comments had been received on the Tech Spec, from HA and two organisations with which it works, Mott Macdonald and Heusch Boesefeld. Most of these were quite simple to incorporate, though the last in particular had raised some more fundamental questions (eg the role of service-oriented architecture within UTMC systems). MC had circulated a revised Issues List; S&SG feedback on the points raised was requested within the next week or so. **All**

- 6.2 Following on from that, MC will arrange for the Issues List to be posted on the Website, and would address the comments when drafting the next revision of the Tech Spec. **MC**
- 6.3 IW had arranged for some work to be done in which extracts of DATEXII had been prepared, representing the actual services offered by NTCC. The documents were ready and IW was confident in them, but was awaiting confirmation by Serco. When this is done these will be circulated and included in the Tech Spec Issues List, with a view to incorporation in the next revision. IW/MC to progress. **IW/MC**
- 6.4 IW noted that the Agency's Technology Convergence Team is currently scoping the HA systems architecture for the future, with a view to bulk procurement over the coming 5-10 years. The bulk procurement offered by the HA provides a potentially very significant message to the systems supply market. While this is at an early stage, IW is keen to ensure that HA and UTMC are aligned as far as possible. Timescales would be clearer in January, but specs would probably take 12-18 months to prepare. **MC**
- 7 Technical work for 2007-08 – discussion**
- 7.1 The draft workplan for 2007-2009 was briefly reviewed and broadly welcomed. Any comments from S&SG members should be passed to MC by 23/11/07. **All**
- 8 AOB**
- 8.1 DR asked if there was any action or appetite regarding the Node C to Node D interface between TLCs and signal heads. The specific issue was in the implementation of LED signal heads, where many incompatibilities with standard controllers were proving difficult to address. It was accepted that this was a problem but the possible action was unclear.
- 8.2 There was a discussion on the work within the UTC suppliers on harmonising a UTC MIB. While it was disappointing that a conclusion has not yet been reached on this, the S&SG did appreciate that the suppliers were making genuine efforts to resolve the issue, and valued the provision of meeting notes – which mean that the Group can see where the detailed technical issues are arising.
- 9 Next meetings**
- 9.1 The next meeting will be at 11:00 on 25 January 2008, in TfL's offices at 25 Eccleston Place (subject to confirmation).