

UDG Specifications and Standards Group Notes of a Meeting

Meeting particulars

Meeting held: 15:00 on 19 March 2008 by telephone conference.

The following were present:

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

The following tendered their apologies:

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

1 Welcome and introductions

Action

- 1.1 MC advised that an approach had been received from John Redmond, Warrington BC, to join the S&SG. This was agreed and MC will involve John in subsequent meetings.

MC

2 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting (25 January 2008) were accepted as an accurate record.
- 2.2 A number of actions were carried forward, from IS (unique IDs and ramp metering in the West Midlands context, UTC MIB), IW (incident management), DR (incident management, task prioritisation) and MC (review of EN15509, task prioritisation).
- 2.3 With respect to incident management, there had been an exchange of information between IW and DR on relevant groups and good-practice guidance. DR had circulated this within TfL for comment but had not yet collected feedback.

Various

3 Technical Secretary's report

- 3.1 The report was reviewed and discussed in detail.

- 3.2 S&SG had no items that it felt the need to bring to the Joint Technical Group, more especially as the new workprogramme has only just begun. MG will be asked how it envisages the JTG happening in future.

DR/MC

4 Compliance

- 4.1 There had been no submissions for compliant products during the period.

5 Product catalogue

- 5.1 The project plan for the web-based product catalogue was reviewed and, now that DfT funding is available, should be restarted. No additional steering or changes were required.

6 Technical Specification update

- 6.1 The draft update for the Technical Specification had been informally circulated to suppliers, and a number of valuable clarifications made.

- 6.2 MC is continuing to track and chase a number of development tasks in the marketplace, on UTC, ANPR, traffic counters and rising bollards. The first three are thought to be fairly close to completion; the situation regarding rising bollards was less clear, as we are still awaiting a proposal from Manchester.

- 6.3 The UML Registry proposal from Mott Macdonald was reviewed, now that we have DfT funding available for it, and accepted. MC will initiate this forthwith. It is felt that the UML output would probably be best treated as a new Annex to TS004.

MC

- 6.4 It was acknowledged that there is a task to ensure the consistency of the different data "views" in the various TS004 annexes. A UML presentation should make this easier, as suppliers could use improved tool support.

- 6.5 MC had prepared a draft "green paper" concerning the relationship between UTM and DATEX II. This had led to considerable discussion and it was agreed not to be appropriate. At the least, we will have a better view of the issues involved in aligning the two initiatives once the UML Registry project has delivered.

- 6.6 IW wondered why users were not crying out for interoperability frameworks, particularly given the new demands of the TMA. The general feeling is that this tended to get put in the "too hard" pile, while users are still focusing on integrating their systems internally.

- 6.7 While the updated draft Spec is generally fit for purpose, the fact that several additional updates are imminent makes this perhaps unwise: TS003 is, after all, supposed to change only slowly. Accordingly, we will wait another month or so, and anticipate issuing a revised TS004 at the same time as TS003.002, so that we can be sure TS003.002 is consistent with the new elements.

MC

6.8 Nevertheless, in order to forestall comment, the current draft should be posted as a working draft on the UDG website, with a note explaining the additional items it is intended to include. **MC**

7 Technical work for 2007-09 – discussion

7.1 The technical workplan had just been initiated with the successful agreement of the DfT support contract.

7.2 It was noted that DfT support covers only a part of the overall UDG workplan, and is not easily extendable in the event of new requirements appearing. For instance S&SG is tasked with establishing a call-off arrangement with technical experts, but has no resource to do this with.

7.3 S&SG feels strongly that the UDG MG needs to ensure that its full workplan is robustly resourced, including aspects not funded under the DfT contract. DR/MC will take this message to the next MG meeting (16 April 2008). **DR/MC**

8 AOB

8.1 Following discussion, there was widespread support for DR to continue as S&SG Chair.

8.2 Supplier membership of S&SG from 1 April needs to be sorted out, now that USF has merged into UDG. A formal election may not be the best approach, as we need to ensure that representation is balanced to be effective (and there is no constitutional requirement). We will therefore do this by cooption, but "semi-democratically", beginning with an open call for candidates. **MC**

8.3 The linkage between streetworks and traffic management systems was discussed. IW noted that streetworks information centred on a technical framework called ETon which is inconsistent with UTMC (and DATEXII); nevertheless they are simultaneously encouraged by DfT.

8.4 It was thought that TfL make a link between their systems, though it is not based on UTMC; Stoke do not link their systems; HA are currently rationalising their architecture in this area. Ahead of the next meeting, all S&SG members should find out how they handle this interface (suppliers with reference to how their systems are used by their customers). **All**

8.5 In parallel MC will raise the issue with Louise Barnett in the context of the National ITS Technical Framework. **MC**

9 Next meetings

9.1 The next meeting will be at 14:00 on 3 June 2008, and will be held by teleconference.