



...simple, easy, quick, hassle free.

ITSO PRESS RELEASE

ITSO welcomes the announcement today that ITSO interoperability will be extended across the whole Oyster Network and London Zones 1-6 rail stations. This aligns the whole of London with the recent announcement that bidders for the South Western Rail Franchise will be required to include ITSO.

Chairman of ITSO, Neil Scales, Director General of Merseytravel, said "This confirms ITSO as the UK standard for all interoperable smartcard ticketing, building on the current roll-out of schemes across England, Scotland and Wales." Customers holding ITSO cards from any part of the UK will in future be able to buy and load onto their card tickets that allow them to travel on or through the TfL network. Neil Scales added "This can only be a benefit to all concerned".

Mike Eastham, ITSO's General Manager confirmed "ITSO will be working closely with TfL to ensure its equipment securely operates with the ITSO environment".

10 May 2006

NOTES FOR EDITORS

ITSO is a world leader in Interoperable Transport Smartcard Standards. By the end of 2006 some 3 million ITSO based smartcards are forecast to be in use across the United Kingdom. A number of other European and worldwide transport undertakings are also considering adopting ITSO, confirming the UK's leading position in this rapidly emerging field.

Interoperable smartcards allow schemes to choose a range of smartcards best suited for their applications from a range of 8 types of smartcard included in the ITSO specification and for the customers who hold those cards to buy and load tickets onto those cards in any other ITSO enabled area. This becomes crucial in 2008 when concessionary travel on local buses becomes free on a national basis. This policy decision by the Government requires concessionary passes issued by a local authority to be acceptable in every other town in England.

ITSO is a members' organisation formed in 1999 by the major players in the transport industry. These included Transport for London, the Passenger Transport Executives (particularly Merseytravel and GMPTE who both gave vision and financial support, some of the larger Local Authorities, the train operating companies through ATOC, Industry Suppliers and the Department for Transport).

The primary focus of ITSO was the creation of a specification for interoperable smartcards for transport applications. Today that specification rests at version 2.1 published in March 2004 and being Crown Copyright, is available to all.

The ITSO specification is unique in a number of ways;

- It supports a wide range of smart media; whereas other specifications usually support only one. In ITSO the choice ranges from low cost disposable cards to top of the range microprocessor cards. The specification recognises current popular contactless media such as Mifare 1K & 4K and Calypso. But all are interoperable, giving schemes a choice of card appropriate to their application; low cost for single journeys; higher specification for concessionary travel cards, which may also be citizen cards.
- It covers the whole life journey of transport applications and so specifies card data, card formats, point of service activities, transaction formats and back office processing – providing a complete end to end specification for interoperable smart media.
- It supplies the security environment specification for key management. This again is unique, as other schemes usually provide only card keys. ITSO provides card, shell and product keys.
- It provides the security architecture for both the card and back office transactions necessary for the secure transmission of data amongst interoperable schemes. This includes the architecture for the authority levels of operators' points of service.
- It enables Interoperability.
- It allows non-transport applications to sit alongside the ITSO application on the card or to sit inside the ITSO application as 'private' applications using data structures that are not defined in ITSO but utilising all the ITSO facilities such as the security environment.

The ITSO Specification

The ITSO Specification has the following parts:

- Part 0: General Introduction
- Part 1: Terminology, References
- Part 2: Customer Media (CM)
- Part 3: Point of Service Terminals (POSTs)
- Part 4: Host Operator or Processing Systems (HOPS) and Asset Management (AMS)
- Part 5: Data Record Definitions on Customer Media
- Part 6: Message Data
- Part 7: Security Sub-system
- Part 8: Security Management System
- Part 9: Communications
- Part 10: Customer Media Types

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