



## **Success for ITSO STREET at ITS World Congress**

At the 13<sup>th</sup> ITS World Congress at Excel ITSO, with significant help from some of its members, exhibited in the ITSO STREET a potential solution for the 2008 English National Concessionary Travel scheme. This, however, was no mere demonstration. Suppliers and scheme operators came together to show how ITSO is being implemented. Visitors were able to use concessionary passes from two live schemes, NoWcard and Cheshire County Council Travelcard, in either scheme's bus equipment and view what happens to the data from those transactions.

What made this demonstration special was that competitive commercial organisations were working together to demonstrate how the creation of a single specification benefits everyone.

Neil Scales, Chair of ITSO & Director General of Merseytravel said: "This exhibition is the culmination of six years development work and provides the answer to all the challenges raised by the introduction of the English National Concessionary Travel scheme. ITSO is now the industry standard specification and is being implemented by major schemes in the UK. There is also considerable interest from abroad and we are working with a number of European partners in particular to investigate how they can also implement ITSO."

Eric Sampson, Head of Transport Technology & Standards, Department for Transport, said: "ITSO is now truly proven to be the interoperable specification we always envisaged. However an added bonus has been the team work between suppliers and scheme operators during the development of the specification and more recently the implementation of ITSO as a live operating environment."

For further information, please contact Peter Stoddart, ITSO Head of Marketing, on 0121 233 2598 or at [marketing@itso.org.uk](mailto:marketing@itso.org.uk).

### ***Notes to Editors:***

#### **About ITSO**

ITSO is a non-profit membership organisation run by its members for the benefit of its members and users of smartcard solutions, supported by the UK Department for Transport. ITSO has created a common specification at both the card and application level, to enable the use of interoperable smart cards in transport and other areas.

#### **About ITSO STREET**

At the 13<sup>th</sup> ITS World Congress (London, 8-12 October 2006) ITSO was showcasing two live transport schemes to demonstrate how the 2008 National Concessionary Travel Scheme could work.

With cards from two real schemes, 2 back offices and two sets of Wayfarer bus equipment, interoperability was demonstrated at every level including the previously unseen back office clearing of 'not-on-us' data. There were also some bonus features:

- A demo of multi-application smartcards by the addition of the LivSmart application to a concessionary card
- The first demonstrated use of low-cost smart media within the Cheshire County Council scheme

- A concept prototype of the rail industry standard ticket printer converted to ITSO by Unicard
- A demonstration by CNA of their version 3 specification card with an ITSO application
- Descriptions of the existing and imminent schemes which together with the existing Scottish Executive Entitlement Card and the converting Welsh Assembly schemes will put some 3 million ITSO based cards in the hands of customers.

Among ITSO Street participants were Applied Card Technologies (ACT), Burall Infosmart, Cheshire County Council, Calypso Networks Association, Ecebs, ESP Systex, Giesecke & Devrient, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Unicard and Wayfarer Transit Systems.

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