

ITSO announces new interim CEO



Michael Leach has been appointed as CEO of ITSO Limited on an interim basis until the 22nd of April 2010.

Michael comes to ITSO with extensive experience in leading high profile functions and programmes, most recently at the Ministry of Justice where he held the posts of Director, Information for Outcomes Programme and ICT Transformation Director. Prior to this he held the position of Chief of Staff to the CIO—Transport for London before playing a key role in the 2007 London Underground Limited review of Metronet after it was placed into administration.

The DfT announced that “they are confident that Michael’s extensive experience in leading significant business change and transformation programmes within the Public Sector in the UK and New Zealand will help him to lead the ITSO organisation, and support the Department in delivering increased rollout of smart ticketing schemes”.

ITSO welcomes Michael and wishes him success during his time with the company.

Kent County Council, the first TCA to migrate to ITSO

Kent & Medway County Council, comprised of 13 TCAs, has now successfully migrated away from ISL to become an individual ITSO Licensed Member.

The Kent County Council ITSO HOPS managed service, provided by Applied Card Technologies (ACT), was successfully installed and commissioned live in autumn 2009. Following successful card production tests with Kent CC, Euclid Ltd, the existing card bureau, seamlessly managed the migration of all Kent Transport Concessionary Authorities (TCAs) from the ITSO Services Limited (ISL) HOPS service to the new Kent HOPS managed service. This was completed to schedule in December 2009.

Philip Ayles of Intelligent Solutions in Transport Limited (IST) said, “This has been an exciting time with Kent County Council, ACT, Euclid and IST working closely in partnership to achieve successful migration. Behind the scenes there were many technical issues to consider, all of which were resolved, allowing Kent County Council to broaden its ITSO product portfolio.”

Commenting on the successful completion of the ISL TCA migration project phase, David Joyner from Kent County Council said, “This is a first for Kent CC & ISL and we are delighted that this project phase went smoothly for the Kent Concessionary authorities who are now using the Kent HOPS. We continue to move forward with our ITSO smart project roll out and look forward to the successful completion of the remaining project phases.”

Helen Mitchell of ITSO Service Limited said “The successful migration of Kent CC from the ISL HOPS to their own county wide HOPS service is a milestone in the Kent CC smart ticketing project.

With more TCA's now accelerating their ITSO smart programmes, we are already seeing further migrations in the coming weeks and months”.

Bolton Council launch the UK’s first multi-purse smart card with an ITSO enabled pay-as-you-go travel purse

The first multi-purse smart card with an ITSO enabled pay-as-you-go travel purse has been launched in Bolton as a result of a successful partnership between Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTE), Bolton Council, Arriva buses, Parkeon, ACT and sQuid - the eMoney payments network.

Applied Card Technologies developed a number of the technology components for the pay-as-you-go travel purse service, leveraging its own smartcard and transaction systems expertise as well as providing expertise to facilitate seamless integration between the ACT provided HOPS and the sQuid service.



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Vacancy Chief Executive Officer, ITSO, Birmingham

The CEO position has now been advertised and can be found on The Guardian On-line and ITSO websites. To find out more and to apply visit <http://jobs.guardian.co.uk/job/966736/chief-executive-officer/>.

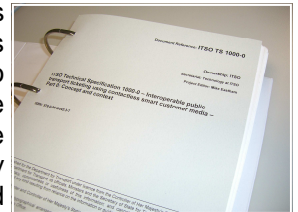
Closing date for receipt of applications: 22nd February 2010. Interviews are expected to take place on 3rd March 2010.

Suppliers Update

As a result of the recent sector ballot, David Ellis (Parkeon Transit) and Tony Emery (Emtran) have been re-elected by the Supplier Members to represent them as Supplier Directors on the ITSO Board for a further period of three years.

ITSO Specification Version 2.1.4 Update

Word from the Editorial team is that drafting on Version 2.1.4 is progressing well and subject to there being no obstacles in the interim, publication should take place before the end of February 2010. Checklists for Testing and Certification should follow soon after the publication of the Specification documents.



Helen Mitchell leaves for Merseytravel

ITSO regretfully announces that Helen Mitchell will be leaving the company at the end of February 2010.

Helen joined ITSO in October 2007 as Head of Business Development with the additional responsibility as Head of Operations and Delivery for ITSO Services Limited (ISL). In this role her remit was to successfully issue ITSO compliant concessionary passes across the non-smart TCAs. Helen and her team achieved this massive task and met the April deadline during 2008.

Helen will take up her new post from 1 March as Head of Ticketing with Merseytravel, where she will continue to be involved in the ITSO community, ensuring her skills and knowledge will continue to assist us in the achievement of our strategic objectives over the next few years.

ITSO would like to express its sincerest gratitude to Helen for all her efforts over the last few years, particularly in ensuring the success of ISL.

Bolton Council launch the UK's first multi-purse smart card ...

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Card holders can now pay for bus travel on over 30 Arriva bus routes in Bolton with their card, in addition to accessing Council services and shopping at local participating stores. Children in Bolton with the Council issued BSmart card can now easily pay for their bus journey to school, entrance to a leisure centre, pay for a snack, take a book out at the library and then get the bus home, without ever needing to carry cash. Parents can top up their child's card online and view their transactions should they want to.

The pay-as-you-go travel purse has been specially adapted by sQuid to work on any ITSO smart card and provides a secure platform for customers and operators to make electronic transactions.

The project has been led by GMPTE and Bolton Council who are supporting the Government strategy for smart ticketing. Councillor Keith Whitmore, Chairman of Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority says "This is part of GMITA's aspiration to make public transport integrated, attractive and easier to use. An effective, efficient and reliable smart ticketing system is a key element of achieving this aim."

Rail Opportunities in Hungary—Note for your diary

The British embassy in Budapest is active making high-level contacts in the Hungarian rail system and promoting the UK rail industry. They are planning to hold a seminar on Tuesday 9th March 2010, with a reception the night before and possibly one-to-one meetings on the 10th.

Background

Hungary is the UK's 3rd largest export market in Central & Eastern Europe (and 22nd largest worldwide), with sales (goods & services) worth £854m in 2007. It joined the EU in 2004 and hopes to join the euro by 2012. Over the next few years it is expected that over GBP 1bn will be invested in developing railway infrastructure. Hungary can also act as a hub for UK companies to bid jointly with Hungarian companies for EU funded jobs in Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria or in Serbia.

This and further information on the Hungarian marketplace can be found on the UK Trade & Investment website at https://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/appmanager/ukti/countries?_nfls=false&_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=CountryType1&navigationPagelId=/hungary

Exhibitions, Presentations and Events

MetroRail 2010

22 to 25 March 2010

Victoria Park Plaza Hotel, London

Speaker: Michael Leach, CEO ITSO

Case study: *What should metro operators be considering when integrating a new ticketing system?*

Contactless Cards and Payments 2010

21 to 22 June 2010

London Marriot Hotel, Regents Park

Further details to follow regarding benefits and discounts applicable to all ITSO members