



ITSONews

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ITSO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



After the ITSO AGM, Mike Eastham, ITSO General Manager, as usual gave a presentation summarising the events which have taken place during the past 12 months.

The most significant events, of course, were the start up of ITSO live operations, now in more than one location, following the signing of the First ITSO Operating Licences and connection of the first AMSs to the SMS.

There have now been almost 900 technical queries raised, as a result of which 190 technical notes have been written. To aid readers in their reading of the Specification these Technical Notes were incorporated in version 2.1.1 of the ITSO Specification, published at the end of October 2006.

Staying within the technical aspects ITSO has also commissioned a pre-production SMS (to enable testing

of new software and testing with AMSs before connection to the live environment) and the development of the CSA (Commissioning System for AMSs). You can get more information on these from ITSO.

Another field which has continued to develop is the Certification and Testing Service, provided by Integri. The statistics reveal that a total of 54 items have now been tested and in the last 12 month period a total of 258 test days have been used.

All of the components of a Licensed Operation have now at least one item tested including:

- Customer Media Definitions (CMD)
- Point of Service Terminals (POSTs)
- Perso POSTs
- Host Operator Processing System (HOPS)

Certificates of Approval have also been issued for components which can be used within the ITSO environment.

Testing slots show limited availability over the next 5 months (up to and including April 2007) so Suppliers who need testing time are recommended to get in contact soon to book slots to avoid disappoint-

ment.

ITS World Congress, where ITSO members including Licensed Operators took part in the ITSO Street, proved in a live capacity that ITSO end-to-end interoperability does work.

Following the signing of the first Operating Licence with Cheshire Travelcard around this time last year, the list of Licensed Members has started to grow and includes Transport Scotland, Merseytravel, NoWcard and Bolton MBC. Prospective Licensed Operations include Nottinghamshire Freedom Card, Stagecoach South West, the first Train Operating Company Franchisee to develop an ITSO system, The Welsh Assembly Government, and Transport for London amongst others.

From an administrative perspective, membership increased over the past 12 months; website and communications are now administered in-house; and marketing has its own database from which we can send regular updates about ITSO to almost all local authorities throughout the UK.

ITSO AT CARTES

ITSO's presence at the Cartes Exhibition in Paris this year proved useful in the promotion of the ITSO/Calypto collaboration.

It was evident that ITSO has matured as the question being asked is no longer "What is ITSO?", but is more on the lines of 'How is ITSO doing and how can we find out more?' According to Peter Stoddart, former Head of ITSO Marketing, the most interesting new must-have 'toy' introduced to Cartes this year were memory sticks in various guises with both a USB interface and a contactless interface, ideal for downloading tickets onto via a PC and then using the contactless element to take the transport.

Peter concluded, 'this was the best Cartes exhibition for ITSO to date.'



SCOTLAND'S BUSES GET SMARTER

On 6th November 2006, the Minister for Transport in Scotland, Tavish Scott MSP, announced the testing in a live environment of smartcard electronic ticketing equipment for Scotland's buses.

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This technology, which harnesses the ITSO Specification, allows greater accuracy and accountability in the process to reimburse operators, significantly reduces scope for fraud, and enables concessionary travel to be included on the Scottish National Entitlement Card. It represents the first visible output from an ambitious project to roll out smart enabled ticket machines and back office equipment across the entire Scottish bus fleet.

Shetland card holders are now asked to present their card on the card reader when boarding the bus. This electronic transaction enables accurate claims from operators of the numbers of concessionary journeys taken, and calculation of the revenue foregone. The new system has been well received by

passengers and drivers alike and, at the time of writing (22 November), has enjoyed 16 days of trouble free operation, dealing with around 300 transactions a day across 28 vehicles.

The Shetland system involves ERG TP5000 ticket machines and an AMS/HOPS provided by LogicaCMG/Royal Bank of Scotland. The smartcards are Mifare 4k, produced by Winter Cards and Novacard.

On completion of this testing in a live environment, Transport Scotland will fund and drive forward the provision of ETM and associated back office systems across the entire Scottish bus fleet – some 7,000 vehicles and 300 operators at an estimated cost of £35m for the life of the project including some longer term maintenance and managed service facilities. The value of the Scotland wide concessionary travel Scheme is around £160m per annum, with more than 1 million cardholders and around 150 million journeys per annum.

It is hoped that the project implementation will be largely concluded by the end of 2007 when Transport Scotland will not only be able to administer the concessionary travel scheme more effectively, but will also have a basis

upon which to develop smartcard based integrated ticketing products.

Gordon Hanning, Head of Concessionary Travel & Integrated Ticketing at Transport Scotland, paid tribute to the hard work, professionalism and expertise of a number of organisations in successfully implementing this latest ITSO Scheme. The key players – ERG, MVA, LogicaCMG and Shetland Islands Council – worked together extremely diligently and flexibly to achieve this. The learning points from the project will also stand in good stead for progressive further roll out across the rest of Scotland.

Whilst the current Scheme in Shetland does not involve the volumes or certain aspects of complexity and functionality that will inevitably arise with major operators in urban areas, it is nonetheless a huge step forward and should help enormously in helping to establish ITSO as an internationally accepted standard specification for transport smartcard operations.

A two day post implementation workshop and demonstration in Shetland was attended by several of the major Scottish bus operators, as well as the ETM supplier and Transport Scotland



and its key consultants. The lessons learned were readily shared by all parties and the session has proved immensely helpful in planning for the multitude of projects needed to achieve roll out across the whole of Scotland.

For further information contact:

Gordon Hanning,
Head of Concessionary
Travel & Integrated
Ticketing,
Transport Scotland,
Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road,
Glasgow, G4 0HF,

Phone: 0141-272-7149

gordon.hanning@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk

News from Members for inclusion in the
ITSO newsletter should be sent
to relations@itso.org.uk.

For all other enquiries please contact marketing@itso.org.uk

Room 122 Centro House
16 Summer Lane
Birmingham
B19 3SD



Phone: 0121 233 2598
Fax: 0121 233 0994
www.itso.org.uk