

# ITSO at PTS 2005

*Stand number 17*

## ITSO IS HAPPENING



In this special edition of our newsletter we have tried to demonstrate both the need for and the pace at which ITSO is now progressing. For more details please contact the ITSO office on 0121 233 2598.



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### Why Local Authorities need ITSO

Free Local Concessionary Travel which was announced in the Budget increases the risk of fraudulent use which can only be resolved by the use of smartcards. Should this be extended to Free Concessionary Travel on a national basis (as per Scotland and Wales) this can only be achieved if those smartcards provide that necessary interoperability through an Industry Standard. ITSO is that standard.

Using ITSO has a number of advantages;

- ITSO is the only Industry standard compliant with European Standards such as EN 1545
- ITSO provides better management data - securely
- ITSO based equipment provides 'Interchangeability' of system elements
- ITSO is an open specification (Crown Copyright) freely available to all

ITSO as an organisation does not provide a 'product' but is a membership organisation whose members cover the entire spectrum of transport; Local Authorities, PTE's, System suppliers, Bus operators, ATOC and Scottish Executive.

Our aim now is to support schemes in implementing ITSO based smartcards for transport or as a wider entitlement card.



**Passenger Transport  
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14 - 15 SEPTEMBER

### What does ITSO do?

ITSO now provides the environment to enable schemes to implement the ITSO specification;

- Certification & Testing (often referred to as accreditation)
- An ISAM (ITSO Secure Application Module)
- Security Management Service
- A set of 'club' rules

## Case Study

### Cheshire County Council Demonstration Day

*Cheshire County Council's progress towards ITSO Certification continues with a demonstration day held in Chester last month.*

Cheshire County Council faced a challenge to implement a travel smart card scheme that would offer unlimited travel in two different zones. In addition it could also be used to electronically store money to purchase tickets.

The demonstration day was held to instil confidence within the wider ITSO community, thus a full range of ITSO messaging between POSTs, HOPs/AMS and PERSO POSTs was on show. The Scheme looks as though it will be the first transport smartcard scheme in the country to be ready for ITSO certification.

The Travel cards unique features designed and produced by ESP Systex have won it the Innovative prize in the Bus Industry Awards. All parties who have worked together to create the necessary ITSO solutions and develop ITSO communication have shown nothing other than dedicated commitment between their products.

With an extremely positive outcome to the demonstration day, this has proven that ITSO schemes are most definitely just around the corner and those transport authorities who are thinking about implementing and ITSO scheme should seriously consider following in the steps of Cheshire County Council.

**For further information regarding ITSO and to obtain more information where ITSO is involved in other schemes, visit our website [www.itso.org.uk](http://www.itso.org.uk) or contact the ITSO office 0121 233 2598.**



## Suppliers take ITSO on board

Over recent months ITSO has experienced a rapid increase in the demand for use of the Certification & Testing Service and through the continual monitoring of the Service by the Executive, has now increased the resource yet again to meet this demand.

### Background

The Certification and Testing Service has now been in operation for over a year.

Initially the focus was on Customer Media testing but as more Schemes are now adopting ITSO, many Suppliers have put forward POST's and HOPS for testing.

We have now tested almost 30 Customer Media with all examples of the CMD's in the Specification (except for the Calypso CMD) have been successfully tested. One POST (sub-assembly) has been tested along with three examples of Personalisation POSTs. Currently one Minimum Functionality (Collection & Forwarding) HOPS has completed testing and a Full HOPS that is at an advanced stage in the testing process and is well on the way to completion.

The Certification & Testing Service was initially introduced to the Suppliers from the I2F Group who developed equipment whilst the Specification was being developed. This was in the form of a "Guinea Pig Scheme" which proved very successful and is now completed.

The next phase was that Suppliers who were developing their equipment further were booking slots for testing towards the end of their own development programs. However as sometimes happens in the development stage of many projects there were slippages to the schedules which culminated in slots being cancelled at the last minute. This resulted in an under utilisation of the Service and meant that managing the future resource requirements was a virtual impossibility.

### Improvements introduced in 2005

In early 2005 it became obvious that the planned Certification & Testing resource would not be able to cope with the demand as Suppliers were working hard to provide their certified products to the initial ITSO Schemes that are due to commence in 2005/6. Therefore ITSO doubled the testing resource in the second quarter of 2005 to meet this demand.

The third quarter of 2005 saw ITSO introduce a new slot booking procedure that requires more commitment from the Suppliers by initially charging a Reservation Fee and increasing the deposit to 50% and the payment to 90 days prior to testing. This has been introduced with effect from November 2005 and has been well accepted by the Supplier community, so much so that we have fully confirmed slot bookings from November 2005 through to March 2006.

ITSO has seen the demand for testing increase even further, and with the present resource, the service is fully utilised until June 2006 with over 200 man days of testing booked. This represents testing of at

least 10 Customer Media, 1 Personalisation POST, 4 POSTs and 4 HOPS of various categories.

The resource has now been increased even further to meet this demand and to meet the timescales for Schemes requiring equipment for their implementations in 2005/6. This will be effective during the fourth quarter of 2005 and it is envisaged that this second increase by a further 50% (representing three times the initial resource) will enable the present bookings to be moved forward and thereby release more slots in early 2006 to accommodate the demand for new products being submitted for testing.

### Moving Forward

So, if you are a Supplier with more products in the pipeline for testing, then you are advised to book your slot as soon as you can to avoid disappointment. Likewise if you are implementing an ITSO Scheme within the next 18 months, then you should ensure that your Suppliers equipment will be ITSO Certified in good time.

**For further information and to book a testing slot, then please contact Martyn Roper – Head of Operations [operations@itso.org.uk](mailto:operations@itso.org.uk)**