

RTIG Newsletter

Issue 6, September 2007

Chair's message

Welcome to the latest RTIG Newsletter.

Members will be aware that RTIG has always worked hard to ensure that our output is aligned with all the good work done by other people. Our joint work with other groups is now quite diverse.

With UTMC and TIH, we have a long standing relationship built upon our shared interest in technical standardisation and guidelines. This activity is coordinated through the Joint Chairs' Group, which I attend on a quarterly basis on RTIG's behalf. We are actively discussing with Government how the JCG could provide the focus for much of the National ITS Framework.

With our peer organisations overseas (particularly VDV in Germany) we are working towards European standards. Members will of course be aware of SIRI. A new activity will begin shortly, looking at on-vehicle communications. Our own work will put us in a good position to contribute to this, and a number of members will be travelling to Cologne in October to take this forward.

With INFORM and ATCO we share a commitment to high quality public transport information. We are now exploring how we can make these links better, and avoid overlaps.

Finally, with Government, we are continuing to build up working relationships with different branches of DfT.

Our next Workshop, in York on 8 November, will have the theme: "integration". We should have plenty to talk about!



Chair, RTIG

Reminder: membership subscription

Membership packs have gone out to all those who have paid their subscriptions. Included in your pack you will find your unique username and password. Don't forget that to gain access to the members' only portion of the website, you need to verify your password with the RTIG webmaster.

Some subscriptions remain outstanding. If you haven't paid your subscription can you please do so as soon as possible? If you need a new copy of the invoice please contact leslie.knoop@centaurconsulting.co.uk.

Remember those who have not paid their subscriptions will not be invited to attend the next workshop nor will they have access to RTIG's extensive library.

Lincoln Workshop – highlights

The latest RTIG workshop took place in Lincoln on 11 July. The theme for the workshop was "the operator's perspectives of RTI".

As well as the regular ITS updates from RTIG and a host presentation from Lincolnshire CC, the group were given presentations on the upcoming Electronic Bus Services Registration (EBSR) launch and an update from RNIB on providing disabled travellers with RTI.

The afternoon session focused on bus operators' perspectives of RTI and included presentations from three bus operators and three systems suppliers. We then held a panel session, in which members took the opportunity to discuss the future of RTI and the needs of both bus operators and systems suppliers. Interoperability, fleet management, client-led system designs and RTI for customer retention purposes were popular points of discussion.

For all presentations and a copy of the workshop notes, please go to your members' area of the RTIG website.

New publications

The following documents have recently been released:

RTIGT025-1.0 Short Term Timetable Changes Position Paper

RTIGT026-1.0 Guide to NaPTAN management

RTIGT013-1.1 Key Fobs Guidelines (update)

Public Transport Technology Survey 2007

The 2007 Public Transport Technology Survey is underway once again. Local authority members should expect the new survey in their inboxes within the next couple of weeks.

The final document will be published in the New Year.

Technical update

We have a number of technical activities underway at present.

Several of these relate to operators: the on-bus architecture is now at a fairly mature stage and should be ready for publication soon, while guidance notes on NaPTAN management and short-term timetable changes are published. We will be taking the on-bus architecture work into the European arena in October.

We have also been working on developments to the technical documentation available regarding disabled traveller support (see below).

Finally, we have participating in Joint Technical Group activities looking at journey time standardisation and unique junction identifiers.

For the future, we plan to initiate two new tasks: one on standard over-air messages for GPRS systems, and one on operational guidelines for system managers.

Disabled travellers

This year we are updating and revising *Meeting the Needs of the Disabled Traveller* (RTIG-PR003-D002). As a first step we are in the process of doing a case study on the needs of the RTIG community in ensuring that disabled travellers have access to RTI and how RTIG's DDA Guidelines do or do not support this.

We are also reconvening the DDA working group this autumn as a forum for discussing how well the guidelines are working and what changes should be considered for the revised edition.

At a more detailed technical level, we have held a number of discussions with RNIB, DfT and others, with the aim of achieving a national open specification for audio announcement trigger systems. The WG will be fully involved in steering this process.

Digital Framework Contract

RTIG recently invited holders of the digital communications framework contracts to update their offers, given the passage of three years since the current contracts were negotiated.

One contractor, Orange, submitted a revised offer. This both broadens and streamlines their 2004 offer, and at the same time reduces costs. This was accepted by RTIG on 11 September.

These framework contracts have been used as the basis of several members' procurements. Don't forget that they are *minimum* offers, and a starting point for your negotiations!

Joint Chairs Group

that RTIG has worked alongside TIH and UTMC (UDG) for several years, to achieve a coherent approach to UK transport system specifications.

The Joint Chairs Group now has considerable momentum, and at its last meeting (7 September) expanded in three key ways:

inclusion of Highways Agency as a full partner

establishment of a research link with InnovITS (supported by BERR – the old DTI)

participation of DfT's ITS Framework project

These are strategically important developments, and RTIG will be making the most of them in developing practical specifications for members.

Working with INFORM

RTIG is continually looking to ensure that we work as efficiently as possible on behalf of our members, in particular where it comes to working with "sister" organisations.

One link where we feel there is more we could do is the one with INFORM. We have had discussions at Chair and Executive levels and are currently formulating a strategic position. We are now keen to hear the views of you as RTIG members – whether you are an INFORM member or not.

If you have a view, do please contact us at mark.cartwright@centaurconsulting.co.uk or call on the number shown.

Upcoming events

The next RTIG Workshop will take place on Thursday 8 November, in York. The theme of the Workshop is "integration".

This Workshop is being held alongside the DfT's launch event for Electronic Bus Service Registration (EBSR), which takes place on the afternoon of 8 November. So that members can get the full benefit from this, we will be keeping the RTIG Workshop to the morning only.

Members might like to know that the INFORM Annual Conference will also be held at the same venue, on 8-9 November.

Full details will be circulated nearer the time.

Executive Committee Members

The current Executive Committee is as follows:

Chair

Bill Tyson (GMPTE)

Local Authority Members

Chris Fowler (TfL)

Tim Rivett (TSY) – Deputy Chair

Dave Stoner (Kent CC)

Bus Operator Members

Matthew Bradley (GoAhead)

Paul Clear (First)

Roy Jeffries (Stagecoach)

Supplier Members

Brian Higbee (Siemens)

Gareth Tilley (Atkins)

Keith Tompson (Acis)

The Executive Committee's next meeting will take place on 2 November 2007.

Contact Details

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RTIG documents are listed in the Library catalogue, which is available in the public area of the RTIG website.

Something to say?

RTIG is a members' organisation. If you have something you'd like to share with other members, please contact us and let us know. If appropriate we will include an item in a future newsletter.