

## UDG Specifications and Standards Group Notes of a Meeting

### Meeting particulars

Meeting held: 14:00 on 23 April 2007 at Centaur offices, Guildford, Surrey

The following were present:

- Derek Renaud, TfL *Chairman*
- Brent Collier, Sheffield CC
- Mark Cartwright, Centaur Consulting *Secretary*
- Gary Umpleby, Mott Macdonald
- Paul Welsh, Owen Williams
- Ian Skeoch, Peek Traffic

The following tendered their apologies:

- Laurie Egan, Norfolk CC
- Martin Porter, Lancashire CC
- Hamilton Purdie, Glasgow CC

### **1 Welcome and introductions**

*Action*

- 1.1 BC was welcomed to the S&SG. GU, PW and IS were welcomed as supplier representatives to this S&SG meeting.

### **2 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting (12 February 2007) were accepted as an accurate record.
- 2.2 There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

### **3 Membership of S&SG – update**

- 3.1 It remains disappointing that there are so few LAs in the S&SG. Anecdotal evidence suggests that people are actively deploying systems, so perhaps they are just too busy doing local projects to engage in technical management at national level.

### **4 Compliance**

- 4.1 There had been no submissions for compliant products during the period.

## **5 Product catalogue**

- 5.1 MC distributed the latest copy of the Product Register, for members to note. There is an open invitation to suppliers to submit updates, additions and corrections; GU to remind USF. *GU*
- 5.2 It was requested that future revisions should have changes flagged (eg as change bars). *MC*
- 5.3 There was an action on Gary Umpleby (on behalf of USF) to draft and present a proposal to upgrade the current product catalogue to a web-based tool. This has still not been completed owing to pressure of work. DR noted that a proposal was required by the beginning of May if the budget set aside for this is not to be lost. *GU*

## **6 Technical Specification update**

- 6.1 The latest draft update of the technical specification was approved by the UDG MG on 1 March for submission to DfT, and has been in public consultation since then. The consultation period closes on 27 April. Drafts of a Change Note and updated Issues List were circulated for noting.
- 6.2 No comments have been received to date. It is therefore expected that TS004.003:2007 will be published on Monday 30 April. *MC*
- 6.3 At the previous meeting, a working draft proposal was submitted to develop a UML-based data objects registry. A number of requests for clarification had been made:
- The timescale for delivery of the output were not clear, and should be added to the proposal. This had not yet been done. *GU*
  - For UDG budget planning purposes the proposal should be offered as a fixed price task. This had not yet been done. *GU*
  - There is a concern a move from Excel™ to UML, while useful to developers, might make it harder for users and procurers to understand. Ian Cornwell had submitted a short note including a sample “current” and “future” page, for comparison; this was welcomed.
- 6.4 MC had had initial discussions with DfT on the acceptability of a UML “primary standard”. No final ruling had been received, but there was significant concern over:
- the readability by less technical users;
  - the maintenance regime, which included a proprietary tool.

It was also noted that recent ISO announcements had recommended that UML should not be used in standards. MC will continue the discussion with DfT.

- 6.5 An alternative option, suggested by IC at the previous meeting, would be likely to be more acceptable. This would be to:
- use the Mott Macdonald proprietary tool as a working model within the supplier community;
  - periodically, export a snapshot report (say in Excel™) in a way which lost no information;
  - submit the snapshot to S&SG with a view to adopting it as TS004.00x.

Suppliers could still use the electronic tool.

- 6.6 DR suggested that the UML class diagrams could be included as an informative annex in the formal TS004.00x document. MC noted that this had been the approach previously used in CEN for Transmodel.

## **7 Technical work for 2007-08**

- 7.1 Three items were identified for the 2007-08 Business Plan:
- The task on security in UTMC systems. This would involve some case study work with key authorities, review of standard technology industry guidance, a review of extant UTMC guidance, and the production of refined/updated guidance.
  - The task to contribute to joint technical work with RTIG/TIH, specifically through the new PT-TM WG and the existing communications WG.
  - A watch on European activity, to ensure that UTMC makes the most of available opportunities and avoids being blindsided.

## **8 Any other business**

- 8.1 Since the last meeting the UG405 MIB had effectively died. This is not necessarily a bad thing, as it was not fully coherent in structure. However it is now essential that Peek and Siemens be encouraged to move forward, to agree a single coherent UTC MIB.
- 8.2 IS reported that Adrian Gray had held a meeting with the manufacturers on 19 April, and a follow up was scheduled for 23 May. DR felt it was key to ensure that the strength of customer feeling was clear; he will take this up with Siemens from a London perspective, and IS was encouraged to take back the message to Peek. *DU/IS*
- 8.3 The PT-TM WG meeting held immediately preceding this S&SG had distributed some papers which describe a standard approach to day-type description, which is now widely used by Transport Direct, NTCC etc. DR suggested that this could usefully be circulated around the S&SG. *MC*

## **9 Next meetings**

- 9.1 The next S&SG meeting will be 14:00 at Ecclestone Place (TBC) on Monday 5 June 2007, immediately following the next JTG Public Transport-Traffic Management group meeting.