

Message from the Chairman

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the UDG, I wish you all a good year ahead in what is expected to be another challenging twelve months.

Despite our best efforts, we are resigned to the fact that the UDG will not receive Government funding in the near future, and probably, in the distant future too. Discussions with ITS (UK) and RTIG-INFORM have concluded with the outcome that neither of these two organisations is able to, or justify, replacing UDG's funded work from their own resources. So the UDG will continue to operate as a result of volunteer and some paid effort in order to maintain the technical specifications and protect the investments of those public and private organisations which began with the Government initiative in 1997.

In 2012, we hope to work closer and engage in EC projects involved with open ITS platforms and with UK authorities which have been successful in leveraging Local Sustainable Transport Funds (LSTF). Let's see how we get on.



Simon Beasley
Chair, UTMC Development Group

UDG News

As noted in the Chair's statement above, the UDG has emerged from its recent strategic consultation process with a renewed mandate to act as a focus for all matters UTMC, both in the UK and (where appropriate) internationally. The loss of our long-standing financial support from Government will undoubtedly constrain how far and how fast we can work, but it is absolutely clear that the UDG continues to perform a valuable role that it is uniquely capable of delivering.

That does not mean there will be no changes. Whereas the Technical Specification used to be maintained quite actively, with careful editorship and public consultation, in future it will increasingly be a matter of "gatekeeping" user submissions. We are therefore, as a community, going to be increasingly reliant on the authorship skills of those making submissions. We are also likely to see the structure of the Technical Specification change significantly, from two closely managed documents (ie TS003 and TS004) into a much more diverse library of "community endorsed" items. This will inevitably take some getting used to, and we will be keen to get feedback from you on how well the new approach is working.

We are also reassessing the way in which we engage with members. As you will know, our annual conference – held regularly since 1997 – was put on suspension for 2011, while the impact of New Austerity was still being absorbed within local authorities. We did hold a much smaller, one-day event, in Newcastle, which was successful but very different in type. We are now exploring options for events in 2012, and we would be very keen to hear your views.

On the positive side, we are making some good progress overseas. One particular noteworthy development is our involvement in a European project bid that is now in the final stages of negotiation with the Commission. Assuming all goes well, this will see the UDG – alongside our German partners, the OCA – embedded in a three-year programme to carry the benefits and experience of open standards frameworks for ITS around Europe. We will keep you advised of developments!

UDG News

The term of the current UDG Management Group is drawing to a close. In line with our Constitution, we will be holding elections for the MG for 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013, as part of our Annual General Meeting in March.

Historically the UDG has not met physically for its AGM, and the election has been conducted through an electronic postal ballot process. The default position would be to repeat this process for the current year.

UDG News continued

However there is also merit in a physical meeting, particularly for those members not directly involved in the Management Group, and the recent strategic reassessment certainly deserves to be considered by the members in plenary. We are therefore considering reverting to a physical AGM. All UDG members would be eligible to attend, and to propose motions for discussion.

If you have a view on this, please get in touch with us through the normal contact address:
secretariat@utmc.uk.com.

Technical Developments

There will be a UDG Specification and Standards Group (S&SG) Working Group considering updates to UTMC Data Objects related to Environmental and Meteorological data and UTMC interfaces to environmental and meteorological monitoring equipment and/or systems. The exact scope for the Working Group will be discussed in the first meeting which will be used to establish the Terms of Reference. If anyone is interested please respond to Paul Rose:
paul.rose@amey.co.uk, 07891 324931.

News from Highways Authorities

UTMC in the news

Derby City Council's Urban Traffic Management Centre is featured on the BBC website with a slide show explaining their work and including mentions of UTMC. See: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-15592971>

News from service and systems providers

Peek implements UG405

Peek recognises that the need to reduce operating costs is driving Internet Protocol (IP) communications to become more commonplace in the traffic control environment. Cost savings are available, not only by reduced running costs of IP communications systems compared to conventional leased line systems, but also by encouraging a diversity of suppliers with compatible products. This is nowhere more evident than in the arena of UTMC and the latest UG405 functionality.

Direct Connection: The principle of UG405 is to enable an Urban Traffic Control (UTC) system to be made up of a hybrid of equipment that work together by following common communication and functionality standards. Peek has embraced this principle and has been providing UG405 compatible behaviour in both our Chameleon® intelligent outstation and our Traffic Management System (TMS) including SCOOT. However, to increase the benefits to customers, Peek have also enabled UG405 operation directly within the PTC-1® IP family of traffic controllers. This will enable a PTC-1 IP family controller to be connected directly to a roadside Ethernet connection without the need for an intervening Chameleon or 3rd party UG405 compliant outstation unit.

Compatibility Testing: Peek has carried out tests with clients using the Peek Chameleon Outstation connected to Siemens' UTC instations and a report is now available (from Peek). The tests carried out demonstrate that the Peek Chameleon Outstation communicates satisfactorily with a Siemens UTC Instation utilising IP communications with the UG405 Type 2 MIB. Basic intersection and basic pedestrian controller configurations were tested demonstrating a level of compatibility. Peek has recommended that further testing should be carried out with more complex controller arrangements and MOVA to confirm that the instation/outstation combination operates over the full range of facilities.

For further information contact: helen.blood@peek.co.uk

News from Highways Authorities

Polis releases position statement on research and cooperation needs, for urban and regional network management and ITS (and UTMC gets a mention)

Following consultation of its membership, in particular with the working group on mobility and traffic efficiency, Polis has prepared a position statement which provides an overview of the needs of local authorities (cities and regions) for research, cooperation and knowledge transfer in the area of transport network management and ITS.

News from Highways Authorities continued

The document should appeal to a wide audience, but it is particularly targeted at:

- European institutions, especially those bodies responsible for defining the priorities of the programmes offering funding opportunities for research, cooperation and knowledge transfer in the area of ITS and network management.
- Traffic systems suppliers and ITS providers.
- Local authorities.


The document can be downloaded in the [policy section](#) on the Polis website:

- [Download the position paper](#)
- [Download the needs matrix](#)

For more information, please contact: **Suzanne Hoadley: shoadley@polisnetwork.eu**

The UDG Management Group

The Management Group composition is currently as follows:



Chair:	Simon Beasley, Reading BC
Local Authority Members:	Andy Wren, Hampshire CC Sunil Budhdeo, Nottingham CC
Supplier Members:	Gareth Tilley, Atkins Glynn Hutton, VMS Ltd Elaine Rodgers, Mott MacDonald
Other Members:	Suku Phull, DfT Dave Kinnaird, Cardiff County Council (for Wales) Brian Maxwell, Roads Service NI (for NI) Allan Hill, Transport Scotland Katie Jenkins, Highways Agency Damian Morris, DATEX
S&SG Chair:	Sunil Budhdeo, Nottingham CC
M&MSG Chair:	Elaine Rodgers, Mott MacDonald

2012 UTMC Calendar

- UDG Management Group meeting, 25 January 2012, Reading

Other relevant events

- Intertraffic Amsterdam exhibition – 27-30 March 2012
See: <http://www.intertraffic.com/intertraffic-amsterdam/visitors/Pages/event-info.aspx>

Contact details

This Newsletter is produced by the UDG in cooperation with ITS United Kingdom.

All UTMC related news are welcome for inclusion in future Newsletters. Please send your news to Jennie Martin at ITS United Kingdom, utmc@its-uk.org.uk

For all administrative matters and enquiries please contact the Secretariat at:

secretariat@utmc.uk.com

Further information on UTMC activities and resources may be found on our website at:

www.utmc.uk.com