

**USF Management Group  
Meeting Minutes**

Babtie, 125 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5EA  
27 November 2003

**Attendees:**

Will Sharp (WS)	Babtie
Richard Gibson (RG)	IDT
Gary Umpleby (GU)	Mott MacDonald
Nigel Baber (NB)	Peek
Mark Bodger (MB)	Siemens Traffic Controls
John Massey (JM)	Tenet
Stephen Corlett (SC)	Thales
Mandi Patel (MMP)	UM3P

**Apologies:**

Robin Hewitt (RC)	Halcrow
Pete Hutchinson (PC)	AGD
Mark Pleydell (MP)	MicroSense
Paul Welsh (PW)	Owen Williams
Nimesh Faldu (NF)	Urbis

**Minutes by:**

Mandi Patel	UM3P
-------------	------

**Action**

- 1 **Welcome and apologies**  
Will Sharp and its organisation was thanked for hosting the meeting at the London Babtie office.
- 2 **Volunteer for secretary at today's meeting**  
Mandi was assigned the role of secretary for today's meeting
- 3 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2003 were agreed by all present.
- 4 **Feedback from meetings with UDG Purchasers' Main and S&SSG Groups**  
RG reported the following from meeting attended on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2003:
  - RG had stated that there was perceived lack of vision and direction. RG pointed out that, apart from a few projects underway, there did not seem to be many more authorities lining up to procure UTMC-compliant systems and one reason could be that they still did not know how, most effectively, to procure and deploy a UTMC solution.
  - The Purchasers (UDG) were pleased at the progress USF have made and our willingness to be co-operative, the Data Objects work is recognised as being very valuable. They do want to discuss the detail of our proposals for DO registry management.

- The UDG were happy with our proposals for Madrid and very appreciative of the effort being put in by those attending. RG had stressed on behalf of USF that the participants were incurring high costs to attend to which UDG suggested that we should approach the DTI for financial support for activities such as overseas marketing and standards development etc.
- The UDG have a sub-group covering finance issues which they are looking into options for funding procurement and other UTMC-related activities such as the conference. The impression is that this is a complex and highly charged issue

GU and RG had a meeting with Derek Renaud (DR) and Mark Cartwright (MC) on 26/11/03. Topics that were discussed were as follows:

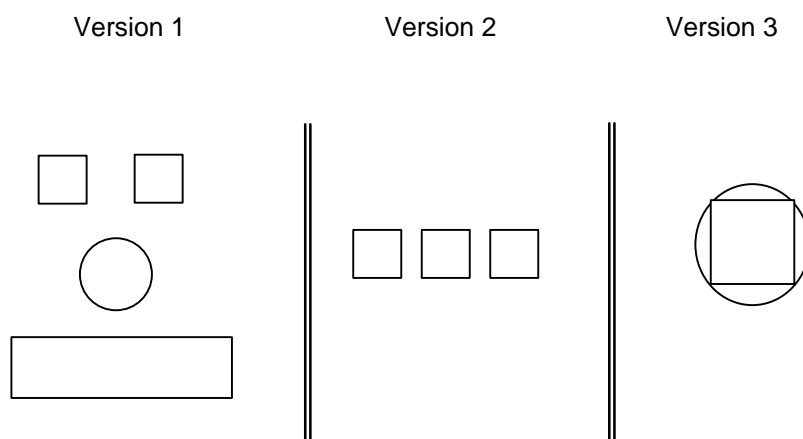
1. Progress to date
2. Proposed management and change of Data Objects
3. Representation of USF
4. Accommodation issues
5. Funding for research etc.

1) GU produced all the output to date on the Data Objects work but MC stated that he had difficulty in understanding the output in the current form. To that effect USF (RG) stated they would issue a report comprising a topped and tailed release of GU's minutes setting out the outcomes of recent USF work on Data Objects.

RU

2 & 5) RG and GU agreed that management and control of Data Object registry was best handled by S&SSG. DR and MC had stated that they would welcome technical suggestions put forward by the USF.

RG and GU explained in diagrammatic form how the process will proceed and asked the question about who is going to fund the work involved. The said diagram was reproduced to the USF management team.



RG/GU explained to USF that they had stated that the USF technical team will bring the Data Objects definition to Version 2 standard but will not roll out necessary updates to the existing deployment. But any new Deployment will have latest V2 incorporated. DR and MC stated that The Department can't be seen to fund the work directly and must find a suitable workaround. They added that UDG Purchasers are looking at the funding and understand the need for upgrading the Data Objects Registry to V2.

SC asked at the present meeting whether the funding just included for further work that needs to be done like the Interface (Session Management), MIBs etc. To that extent RG stated that it would only cover V2 work of the Data Objects. WS re-iterated that all demonstrators would need to upgrade to V2.

SC also pointed out that on the Reading Demonstrator that XML was used and is not in the any of the UTMC specification. And asked the question how and who is going to revise the specification and how it is going to be funded. The further research work proposal will be tabled by RG at the next scheduled S&SSG meeting.

RG  
GU

GU stated that he had asked the how he could seek funding research and maintenance of for new, present and previous work. S & SSG it would be there remit to look at work and would seek input (large) from the USF technical group. The funding is still issue and S & SSG recognise the problem and indicated that they are looking at it actively to solve the problem.

JM asked that, as it is mechanical problem to get funding, should we look at USF being incorporated???

RG stated that if LA gets the money, they would be reluctant to release the money for the present work.

From question of funding RG had asked S& SSG group on who is going to lead the SSG group as the UTMC demonstrator is coming to close. The reply was that MC will be in control up to March 2004 and DR will look after it thereafter.

JM asked the question on whether the Steering Group is going to exist after the UTMC demonstrator. RG said that the situation in unclear.

NB suggested that we look at Europe for looking at the funding. Look at UG405 model for Funding and could we look at funding by subscription?

It was unanimous that Funding, Funding, Funding, ..... was a great issue and USF go back to DR and copy correspondence to Julie Hurley that we must get funding for

- Specification and new research work
- Migrating the existing system to version 2.

RG

3) RG stated that USF will have one permanent representative at S&SSG meetings (ex-officio the USF chairman) and can bring any reasonable number of additional temporary (technical) representatives. The specific USF representatives will be determined on the basis of the meeting agenda, which will be issued in advance. Those temporarily in attendance are not members of the group, merely there to assist it in making its decisions

4) RG stated UDG would provide meeting accommodation for the USF meeting in the future – and hence we have a room for 1000 on Thursday 18 March 2004 for the next USF management meeting.

## 5 **Feed Back From ITS World Congress Attendees, Madrid**

Attendees stated that it happened, if required it can be done again.  
Boards used may come back

PH was arranging the bits+ bobs to come back

Question was asked whether it was useful for USF? The following statement were made:

- MB stated it was difficult to say and we were pressurised by the UDG
- NB stated that there was no common theme (to many companies). However he felt it was good for networking.
- JM stated it was confusing, useful as exercise in networking
- SC stated there were number of short presentation, but felt that opportunity was missed for showing what UK are doing.

Question was asked whether USF was going to Japan? The following statement were made:

- Manufacturer's didn't believe they can justify the trip
- Need to convert the UTMC banner
- Consensus was that it may be better to focus on Europe
- Believe opportunity is limited.
- Not a venue for Standards & Specification
- Good for selling products like tooling, Road pricing, etc.
- Wireless communication for Car to Car
- Given a business case then manufacturers would not have gone to Madrid. We were pressurised to go
- Manufacturers stated that if there was European stand for Traffic Control systems like ERTICO then business case would allow them to go

Question was asked on status of Germany Forum?

- How and what are they up to?
- Can UTMC form some sort of alliance? It was suggested that there may be chance to explore the avenues at the UTMC 29 conference at Reading.

Question on Publishing of our work. It was suggested that RG would talk to S & SSG

**RG**

## **6 Feedback from Data Objects Meeting**

GU stated that meeting with S & SSG would be released in due course. The following points were discussed with them:

**GU**

- Process used by the USF Data object Technical group
- One object has been approved
- Finish by February
- Next planned meeting is at 15 January 2004

## **7 UTMC conference to take place Reading**

RG did a dry run of the presentation to be given at the Conference on the behalf of USF to publicise activities to date. The presentation gave key messages on the creation of the USF, composition and achievements to date. RG presentation was well received with very minor corrections to the prepared slides.

Preliminary details of the workshop agenda were elaborated by JM. It will be in a similar format to the York presentation but it will take place day after the main event.

**Data Objects**

Mark Cartwright (Chair)  
Brendan Mason  
Gary Umpleby  
Derek Renaud

**UTMC life cycle**

Bip Radi (Chair)  
Will Sharp

John Massey visited the conference site with Ben Thancanamootoo and explained details of Exhibition Area:

- Large room for Lunch & Coffee area and on different floor from the large room where the main presentation will be given.
- 3 meeting places for suppliers? NOT SURE HERE RICHARD
- Desk will be provided and need to be manned them during Coffee & Lunch break
- Conference is going to be expensive this Year.
  - Cost will be from £750.00 to £1200.00 this may be brought down to £400.00 through sponsorship? NOT SURE
- Tenet will manage the conference
- Laura will assist on conference booking etc
- Next year the conference may not continue in its form. UDG assumes that it will be Industry generated forum.
- 150 people are registered on the first day
- 123 people are registered on the second day

8

**A.O.B.**

No other business

9

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The venue and accommodation will be provided by TfL on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2004.  
Venue TfL, London