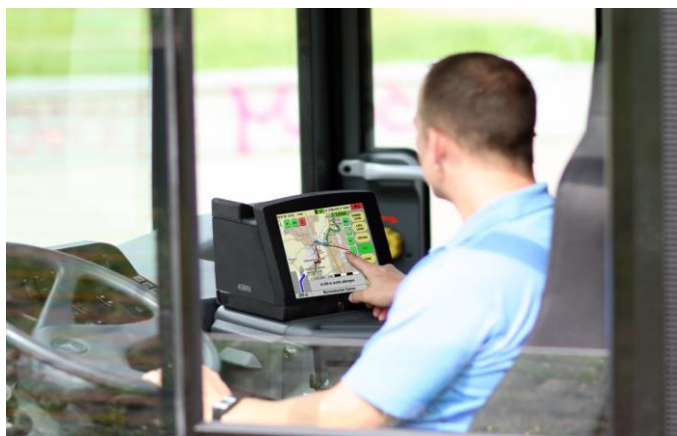




INFORMed

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News of RTIG-INFORM initiatives and events including a message from RTIG-INFORM Chair Neil Scales and a report from the Spring Meeting and AGM.

[Members' News](#)

Your chance to hear the latest news and developments from RTIG-INFORM members; this month, Mobius looks at how Centro, Vodafone, Mobius and RTIG-INFORM have been working together to create a more robust, more secure Private Mobile Network to support Centro's real-time passenger information system. And INIT supplies e-ticketing system in Canterbury, New Zealand.

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Message from the Chair

Welcome to the first RTIG-INFORM newsletter of the new year.

We have just celebrated our first complete year of the conjoined RTIG-INFORM, and it's just five years since RTIG launched as a subscription organisation. I think we can be proud of what we have achieved in that time. The fact that we are continuing to attract and retain members suggests you all value what we are doing. Equally important to us is our partnership with Government, for which we have signed an ongoing support arrangement just in the past few days.

Those of you who were at the AGM on 19 March will know that there is plenty to do – considerably more this year than last – and our income is not likely to rise to match. While this workplan gives us a role and allows us to make a real difference, we are going to have to make some invidious decisions on task priority. Please do let us know your views on this.

Going forward, we are committed to working with other national organisations to provide a joined-up view both to policymakers and to delivery projects. The Joint Chairs Group remains the key technical vehicle, while on the softer side we are working with ACT TravelWise; our Annual Conference and Exhibition this year will be a joint venture with Local Transport Today, which will significantly raise the profile.

Of course the big unknown in the year ahead is the state of the economy, and public finances in particular, with a General Election due shortly. Even here though I think we have some cause for optimism: our industry combines public transport with high-tech investment, both of which have broad political support from all main parties. And by most standards, what we do is a pretty inexpensive way of delivering benefit to UK travellers.

Keep up the good work!

Neil Scales

RTIG-INFORM Chair

Spring Meeting and AGM

The Annual General Meeting of RTIG-INFORM took place on 19 March 2010, once again alongside our Spring Meeting, at 50 Broadway, London. In the formal business, the Chair and Management Committee for 2010-11 were appointed and various constitutional and business documents noted.

The speakers provided as lively a session as ever, with the broad theme of "Towards the Future".

For the DfT, Nick Illsley gave a broad-ranging presentation including developments in Transport Direct (for which the majority of users now come in *not* via the Portal), policy developments at national and European level, and developments in the public's use of technology. A major conundrum is how to maintain trust in the core data while allowing freedom to innovate, in line with Smarter Government, and bearing in mind the great variety of personal factors in travel choices.

There were a number of updates on current RTIG-INFORM workstreams, including the GPRS protocol for bus-to-base communications (David Batchelor, Kent CC), the first RTIG-INFORM interoperability testing day (Brian Higbee, Trapeze ITS), and the provision of on-bus audio-visual information (Leslie Knoop, Centaur).

Steve Davenport (SYPT) provided a timely, and surprisingly comprehensible, survey of European procurement legislation, including recent changes. The key take-home message: make sure you follow the rules punctiliously, because the "remedies" available under challenge by disgruntled bidders have increased significantly and can seriously disrupt project timetables and costs.

Finally we were delighted to welcome Berthold Radermacher, who manages the Telematics and Customer Information groups within the German passenger transport industry association VDV. This highlighted the role of VDV standards within Germany and finished with an open question on how VDV Telematics and RTIG-INFORM can cooperate to mutual advantage. RTIG-INFORM is certainly keen to take up this opportunity, and we will keep you informed on how this relationship builds.

Core reference datasets

On 22 March, the Prime Minister made a speech on 'Building Digital Britain', of which the following is an extract:

"In January we launched data.gov.uk, a single, easy-to-use website to access public data. And even in the short space of time since then, the interest this initiative has attracted – globally – has been very striking. The site already has more than three thousand data sets available – and more are being added all the time. And in the past month the Office for National Statistics has opened up access for web developers to over two billion data items right down to local neighbourhood level.

The Department for Transport and the transport industry are making available the core reference datasets that contain the precise names and co-ordinates of all 350,000 bus stops, railway stations and airports in Britain [that is, NaPTAN].

Public transport timetables and real-time running information is currently owned by the operating companies. But we will work to free it up – and we will make it a condition of future franchises that this data will be made freely available.

And following the strong support in our recent consultation, I can confirm that from 1st April, we will be making a substantial package of information held by Ordnance Survey freely available to the public, without restrictions on re-use. Further details on the package and government's response to the consultation will be published by the end of March."

The full text of the speech is available at <http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22897>.

NaPTAN data is available at <http://data.gov.uk/dataset/naptan>.

Available Ordnance Survey data includes *inter alia* Streetview® (1:10000 raster), Locator® (roadname gazetteer) and Meridian 2® (vector, midscale). Warning – many of these are large files!

TransXChange update

A new version of TransXChange is in preparation: the discussion draft v2.4a is posted on <http://www.dft.gov.uk/transxchange/schema/schemas.htm>. This incorporates a number of improvements identified and prioritised by the Public Transport Information Coordination Group (PTIC), run by RTIG on behalf of RTIG, ATCO, Traveline and DfT Transport Direct. The new version is backwards compatible with existing TXC.

The timetable for consultation and finalisation will be announced shortly.

GPS jamming exercise

Ofcom has issued a notice from MoD of the following GPS jamming exercise:

Dates: July 5th – 15th 2010

Times: Limited periods between 12:15 and 15:15 hrs

Location: Airborne at various heights on a bearing of 2700 starting 10nm West of Kirkwall – N580 57.4' W0030 13.9'

Contact: Duty Controller Flying, RAF Kinloss (during the trial only) on 01309 617857 or RAF Lossiemouth on 01343 817428.

Management Committee Members

The current Management Committee is as follows:

Chair:

Neil Scales (Merseytravel)

Local Authority Members:

Ian Mathie (SESTRAN)

Tim Rivett (SYLTE)

Consultant Members:

Miles Robinson (Atkins)

Bus Operator Members:

Paul Clear (First)

Roy Jeffries (Stagecoach)

System Supplier Members:

Brian Higbee (Trapeze ITS)

RTIG contractor support

RTIG Ltd has a contract with Centaur Consulting to provide a broad range of professional support. This contract was issued in 2005 for a period of up to five years, and is now drawing to an end.

RTIG Ltd has therefore posted a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (reference 2010/S 55-082113, dated 19 March 2010). This notice covers "business and management consultancy and related services", which will enable us to continue to provide a professional service to members and to Governments.

The procurement timetable, point of contact for further information, response required from bidders, and criteria for evaluation are included in the OJEU notice.

Current Working Groups

The following Working Groups are currently active.

Marketing Group – post-Spring meeting, the focus of this group now shifts to the 2010 Conference, which we are running jointly with Local Transport Today. (Closed: this WG is a subgroup of the Management Committee.)

Passenger Transport Information Co-ordination (PTIC) Group – PTIC next meets on 20 April 2010 in Edinburgh, primarily to discuss the development of .

Audio-visual WG – the case study document has been submitted to the DfT, showing that AV on buses outside London is still rare. The cost-benefit work to date suggests this is not likely to change through operators' natural business interest. (Closed: by invitation.)

Bus-Rail Technology Alignment WG – this group met on March 15th, at Interfleet offices in Derby. A useful working paper compared bus and rail industry standards and a short "position paper" is now being prepared which captures this.

On-vehicle Systems Architecture WG – the first document circulated by the UC-funded "European Bus System of the Future" (EBSF) project has been reviewed, and review comments fed back (alongside those of other countries) to CEN.

If you don't yet participate in one of these groups but would like to do so, please contact us at secretariat@rtig.org.uk. Except where noted, any RTIG member can participate, and non-members may be invited if they bring specific expertise.

Note: other WGs are likely to be launched in support of this year's Business Plan activities. The first Management Committee on 5 May will help prioritise tasks, so we will know after that which WGs we will need to convene.

Keeping in touch with you

As well as keeping you up-to-date with all the latest news from RTIG-INFORM, this newsletter aims to provide a community forum for members. We are therefore offering RTIG-INFORM members the opportunity to submit a short article here on any issue or innovation that might be of interest to the community.

There are two ways of becoming involved in this. Either you can email pieces to us when you have them – press release format is fine and pictures may be included. Alternatively, you can nominate a marketing contact who will be included in the editor's monthly process of 'chivvying'.

This month's image has been supplied by INIT.

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MEMBERS' NEWS

[Centro improves information available on public transport](#)
[INIT fits e-ticketing system in Canterbury, New Zealand](#)

Centro improves information available on public transport

This text is taken from a flyer put together by Mobius and Centro. Copies are available on request.

Centro, Vodafone, Mobius and RTIG-INFORM have worked together over the last three years to put together a more robust and more secure Private Mobile Network to support Centro's RTPI system. As importantly, this has also significantly reduced costs.

Real Time Passenger Information is often cited as one of the key enablers for increasing the use of public transport. Passengers need information to make the right choice before they begin their journey as well as reassurance that they are in the right place at the right time, as the journey progresses. Accuracy is vital as wrong information quickly erodes passenger confidence.

Centro is responsible for promoting and developing public transport in the West Midlands' seven District Councils: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton. In 2009, Centro reviewed the data costs for all their RTPI on street displays, on-bus equipment and other hand-held devices to see if cost reductions could be made while maintaining the existing support from Vodafone.

Through its membership of RTIG-INFORM, Centro has access to national framework contracts secured by RTIG-INFORM following open competition under European procurement rules. Pricing through these contracts can represent a significant saving over standard voice and business rates when applied to RTPI applications.

Vodafone's preferred partner for Machine to Machine applications, Mobius Networks, is also a specialist in both local government in general and RTPI in particular. By working together, Vodafone and Mobius have been able to transfer the West Midlands RTPI system to a team dedicated to local government and public transport with improved billing granularity, greater security and better technical support.

One of the biggest issues with a change in mobile service providers is the need to physically swap out the SIMs in the network. Changing these SIMs in a bus fleet can be completed with a limited degree of difficulty. But street furniture – bus stops, information points, kiosks, Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras and Variable Message Signs are generally remote and the cost of visiting all these sites outside routine maintenance may more than negate any potential cost savings.

By giving Mobius unusual access to the Vodafone system, this change has been completed without switching out SIMS on the hundreds of street displays around the West Midlands. This means that the connections now run over a Private Mobile Network with no internet access, making each connection isolated and secure. In addition, this will allow the introduction of fixed IP connections over mobile, supporting true bi-directional data flow from the centre to all the remote signs and buses and back.

This will allow Centro to continue to improve its offering to its customers whilst Mobius will be able to provide a fixed IP over mobile solution. This improvement over Mobius and Vodafone will continue to support Centro as they move more of their data connections estate over, cutting costs by around 30%.

www.mobiusnetworks.co.uk

INIT supplies e-ticketing system in Canterbury, New Zealand

INIT is providing over 300 vehicles belonging to four bus companies in and around Christchurch, New Zealand, with its EVENDpc integrated on-board computer and electronic ticket printer. The system will also integrate two point-of-sale locations and a ferry. Christchurch is the capital of the administrative district of Canterbury, the largest of 17 regions in New Zealand by area, with some 520,000 inhabitants. The project has been commissioned by Environment Canterbury, the regional council that has opted to purchase the system and install it on all contracted urban passenger service vehicles in the region.

www.init-ka.de

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CALENDAR AND CONTACTS

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Forthcoming Events

For further details of these events please contact secretariat@rtig.org.uk

Date	Event	Location
April 19 th , 2010	AV Working Group	London
April 20 th , 2010	PTIC	Edinburgh
May 5 th , 2010	Management Committee	London
June 2 nd , 2010	Joint Chairs Group	London *
June 29 th , 2010 *	Workshop	Cambridge
June 2010	Bus-Rail Technology Alignment Group	London
July 7 th , 2010	Management Committee	London
September 1 st , 2010	Management Committee and Joint Chairs Group	London
September	CEN on-bus architecture group (SG1)	TBC *
November 3 rd , 2010	Management Committee	London
December 1 st , 2010	Joint Chairs Group	London *
December 7 th -8 th , 2010	UTMC Annual Conference	Liverpool
December 2010 *	Workshop	TBC *
January 5 th , 2011	Management Committee	London
February 2 nd , 2011	Management Committee and Joint Chairs Group	London
March 2011	AGM and Spring Meeting	London *

* = To be confirmed

Get in touch

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To unsubscribe

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NOTICES

This section of the Newsletter is available for advertisements by both members and non-members. Charges apply – please contact us at secretariat@rtig.org.uk for further information.



Technical Director, ITS

(Based in Staverton, Wiltshire)

We are looking for a talented technology leader who will be responsible for the continued development and enhancement of the Trapeze UK RTPi product. The successful candidate will also need to participate in discussions with North American and Europe in order to ensure the consistency of the strategic vision. As such a reasonable level of travel to our locations in Switzerland, Canada and the USA as well as throughout the UK will be required.

It is essential that the successful candidate have a high level of technical and industry knowledge and a proven track record in technical project management delivering complex end-to-end technical systems/solutions.

Key Responsibilities

- To evolve and maintain a visionary technical direction for the ITS business unit that ensures its position as a leading product through skills acquisition, platform capabilities, strategic partnerships and industry reputation.
- To manage and develop the existing technical team.
- To ensure delivery of technical projects on time, to budget, to the highest quality and client expectation.
- To transfer own experience and learning to colleagues and to find ways of further enhancing the proposition.
- To develop a high level technical consultancy competency that provides technical advice to clients.

What background and skills do you need?

- Proven experience in a technical consultant/architect/director role within RTPi or a related ITS business. The role requires a good understanding of distributed real time systems.
- Proven track record in the delivery of product developments to time and budget.
- Experience of selling RTPi or similar systems within the UK public sector market.
- Line management experience for a team of at least ten people within a development environment.
- Proven revenue winner and driver.

To apply please send a covering letter and CV to:

Clair Clarke, HR Director, Trapeze Group UK Ltd, The Mill, Staverton, Wiltshire, BA14 6PH

Tel: 01225 784204 - Email: careers@trapezegroup.co.uk - Website: www.trapezegroup.co.uk