EU IFM ALLIANCE Memorandum of Understanding signed Feb 15, 2012

Memorandum of Understanding: first step towards an EU Intelligent Fare Management Alliance

Yesterday a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by representatives of the organisations for technical specifications of VDV KA (Germany), ITSO (UK), AFIMB (France) and Calypso Network Association together with representatives of UITP (International Association of Public Transport). The MoU presents a platform for cooperation in the context of today’s infrastructures and systems and a way forward to establish a European Alliance for developing European interoperability. It was signed at the IT-TRANS conference organised by UITP and KMK (Karlsruher Messe- und Kongress GmbH).

YESTERDAY saw another major step forward in making transport ticketing across parts of Europe simpler and easier for passengers.

An EU IFM ALLIANCE is proposed to be set up and supported by the EU Commission that creates a trust scheme for Public Transport Smartcards that mirrors the Trust Schemes in the mobile phone industry, banking etc.

The EU IFM ALLIANCE trust scheme will cover:
- Rules, specifications and governance requirements for membership
- Compliance checking, award of certification, and actions to be taken in the event of non-compliance
- A recognisable scheme mark and published list of compliant schemes in the Trust network
- Manage relationships with other trust schemes

Once the EU-IFM ALLIANCE has been created and is operational, it is recommended that a pilot be created to test the portal, the trust scheme and the necessary compliance of smartcards as they interoperate between transport schemes and across mobile phone networks and with bankcards.

The electronic ticketing issue features strongly in the EU Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) agenda, being included in the white paper on transport strategy, the ITS directive and a priority for DG MOVE Urban ITS expert group. It also addresses the challenge by EU Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas to be able to access public transportation wherever you are in Europe and to hold all your ticketing in a single smart “wallet”.

The EU Interoperable Fare Management (IFM) project (www.ifm-project.eu) ended in June 2010 with great and proven success. The conclusions from the IFM project are still valid. The new techniques using contactless bankcards and mobile phone solutions are compatible with the IFM methodology and could support a wider European interoperable ticketing concept and open up for further development as well as new mobile payment solutions.

The public transport sector is willing to actively take part in a further development to meet the goals presented in the various recent EU-proposals. But there is a need to use the knowledge and the investments done by the public transport sector and develop it further. With the IFM approach and the road map presented in spring 2010, there is a viable solution for electronic ticket interoperability which above all also meets the important subsidiarity factor for the public transport sector. Moreover, this approach fits well with all other transport sectors and other potential contactless smart card and mobile applications.
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Presentation of the signers

ITSO
ITSO is a UK government-backed non-profit organisation which sets a common technical standard that means transport operators throughout Britain could link up so passengers only have to use one secure payment ‘smart’ card no matter what transport mode or route they are using. That same card can also be developed for multiple other, non-transport uses.

VDV-KA-KG
VDV-KA is the open and secure German standard for electronic fare management systems (EFM) which enables the passenger to move freely and easily between the public transport companies without having to deal with the different tariff zones and ticket machines (interoperability). It provides an open platform which not only allows transport operators to integrate their back office systems as well as those of multimodal and multifunctional partners. The VDV-KA-KG regulates the cooperation of the various stakeholders in EFM systems at an organisational level. ((eTicket Germany is the brand name of the VDV-KA.

Calypso Networks
Calypso Networks Association (CNA) gathers operators, authorities & suppliers implementing Calypso. Calypso technology is an open specification issued from an EU project to assure a high security level for contactless transactions and to provide technical interoperability between networks assuring multi-services providers environment. The main tasks of CNA are to define and direct the reference specifications, a certification policy and to contribute to the international standardisation process.

AFIMB
The French agency for multimodal information and ticketing (AFIMB) is attached to the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Transport. The agency’s responsibilities include to promote interoperability in the areas of multimodal information and ticketing and support standardisation in these areas.

UITP
UITP is the international network for public transport authorities and operators, policy decision-makers, scientific institutes and the public transport supply and service industry. It is a platform for worldwide cooperation, business development and the sharing of know-how between its 3,400 members from 92 countries. UITP is the global advocate of public transport and sustainable mobility, and the promoter of innovations in the sector.

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