



Smarter Solutions News from the National Smartcard Project

Issue 1, August 2003

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of a regular series of e-newsletters aimed at keeping you up to date with what's happening on the National Smartcard Project.

Work on each of the Project's work packages is well under way with a number of deliverables already coming through and in this edition we will look at progress on each work package. For a full deliverables' timetable visit www.scnf.org.uk and click on the National Project link where up-to-the-minute information on the Project's progress will be posted between newsletters.

Please feel free to copy this newsletter to colleagues who may be interested. Any comments, submissions and requests to subscribe/unsubscribe should be sent to coordinator@scnf.org.uk

Michael Gates, Project Manager

Making the case for smart cards

The first deliverable of nine within Work Package 2 (Business Case) is a business case for smart cards.

Having reviewed existing smart card scheme implementations, the business case will identify the drivers for Local Authority-instigated, multi-application smart cards - focussing on social, political and commercial aspects. It analyses possible applications, starting from an entry-level perspective and goes on to give an overview of the current environment to see how schemes might migrate towards full interoperability.

The summary and conclusions form the basis for the approach to the financial model, which, in turn, will contribute the construction of a full business model!

**For more information, contact Rob Gair, 023 8083 2659
rob.gair@southampton.gov.uk**

Setting the Standards

The standards group (Work Package 3) has made good progress with a number of drafts being prepared for consultation in September. These early papers cover issues such as

- Interoperability
- Authentication
- Scheme relationships
- Applications list
- A review of existing standards and proposals for the technology to be adopted for the starter pack
- Accessibility
- Card communities
- Card Scheme elements
- Scheme management
- Transaction Clearing

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‘Much of this work is intended to provoke interest in smart cards standards’ *Mick Davies*

- “Real estate” issues
- The value chain
- Card life cycle

Much of this work is intended to provoke interest in smart card standards and plans are being developed to hold informed stakeholder debates where such issues will be discussed by industry experts and considered by a National Smartcard Project panel.

Work is being commissioned to follow-up initial discussions with ITSO to determine how much of this functionality can be used by the Project.

For those who wish to become more technically involved, an embryonic LASSeO web site is being populated with detailed papers and links. This will shortly be made available to a wider audience.

**For more information contact Mick Davies, 0207 793 1449
mick.davies@londonconnects.org.uk**

Better ways to buy smart cards

Establishing good practice for local authorities that wish to purchase smart card services or hardware is the role of the procurement Work Package (4). It will also ensure other work packages can meet their objectives within the project timescale by setting up an effective route to S-CAT and G-CAT services, with suitable guidance for authorities who have not used them before.

Model conditions of contract will be developed to enable two or more authorities to collaborate in joint procurement of smart card goods and services. High quality terms and conditions should make it relatively simple to achieve significant economies of scale.

The S-CAT route should be up and running by the end of summer, with a range of professional services sub-contractors working with a suitable S-CAT contractor.

Model terms and conditions will be available in the later half of the year to enable bulk-procurement of Local Authority smartcards within the lifetime of the Project.

**For more information contact Conn Crawford 0191 553 4235
conn.crawford@sunderland.gov.uk**



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'It also helps to take away the stigma attached to the claiming of free school meals and the bullying that can result from it.'
Wendy Violentano

Kids go cashless!

The new cashless catering system installed in North Doncaster Technical College as part of Work Package 5 (Links to Central Government and other National initiatives) went live on 1 July.

The cashless catering function is housed on the Connexions Card and the College reports that it is working well, and already making a difference to young people in terms of convenience and security. It also helps to take away the stigma attached to the claiming of free school meals and the bullying that can result from it. More functions are planned from September.

**For more information contact Wendy Violentano, 0114 259 3607
wendy.violentano@dfes.gsi.gov.uk**

Attracting revenue

The foundations of Work Package 6 (Commercial Applications) have been laid, with the development of:

- The Project Initiation Document
- The Project Plan
- The Method Statement.

Commercial applications have been defined as those, which can attract external revenue to the scheme. This can include local authority sponsored services as well as those from private sector and other third parties.

A long-list of commercial applications meeting this definition has been brainstormed and the importance of these to three stakeholder groups – customers, local authorities, and commercial providers – has been assessed. A short-list for more detailed consideration has been developed by ranking the long-list for overall assessed importance.

A market research brief has been prepared to examine customer views of the short-listed applications both individually and in terms of synergies with other applications. A cost-benefit analysis outline methodology has been developed to generate frameworks for assessing the short-list.

The first Work Package deliverable, reporting on these issues, has been submitted.

**For more information contact Rob Gair, 023 8083 2659
rob.gair@southampton.gov.uk**



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‘Commercial applications have been defined as those which can attract external revenue to the scheme.’ Rob Gair

Cross-Region Delivery

The Work Package 7 Project Team, which includes representatives from Bolton, Blackburn with Darwen, Sheffield, Cambridgeshire, NERSC, GMPTE Lancashire & Cumbria and London Connects, has agreed the detailed deliverables for the project. These include:

- Authentication models linked to ESD processes and a Local Authority federated PKI CA and bridging authority
- Cross Boundary access to services including two major transport schemes, schools, libraries and leisure
- Cross agency issuance of transport tokens
- E purse requirements for cross boundary implementation

Work has started on specifying our requirements and getting the right people involved from the various agencies.

**For more information contact Sue Devlin, 01204 331586
sue.devlin@bolton.gov.uk**

Keeping it legal - Project appoints law firm

Citizens enjoy the ease and convenience of smart card services such as credit/debit and e-purse. However, such services raise a number of legal considerations, which must be taken into account by Local Authorities (Work Package 8). These include security, data protection, public procurement and competition. To give councils a clear understanding of the issues involved, the Project has called in legal firm Masons.

Well known in the smart card sector, Masons were appointed to provide the deliverables for this part of the Project following a competitive tendering process. The process highlighted the considerable amount of relevant work they have done in the past. Masons will be working closely with the Project to ensure that all deliverables are provided in a timely manner to fit in with the requirements of other Work Packages

**For more information contact John Defoe, 020 8430 4302
john.defoe@newham.gov.uk**



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‘By using a dual-interface card, local authorities will be able to take advantage of both methods when issuing smart cards to employees and citizens.’ Roy Cosway

Dual-interface cards will reduce costs for Local Authorities

The Smartcard Starter Pack (Work Package 9) that will be available from the National Smartcard Project to all local authorities from April 2004 will employ a "dual interface card".

By aggregating the purchasing of local authorities who want to use this technology, and by producing a series of licence-free items of software that will come as standard on the card, the raw costs of cards will be substantially lower than is currently possible.

Why this type of card?

- Some smart card systems operate with contactless cards that work when held close to a suitable reader. Typical examples are on buses, door entry systems and others where lots of people have to pass through quickly
- Other smart card systems require contact cards that have to be pushed into a slot. Typical applications are car parks, for computer access control and in other secure payment systems

By using a dual-interface card, local authorities will be able to take advantage of both methods when issuing smart cards to employees and citizens.

For more information contact Roy Cosway 01872 323230, Rcosway@cornwall.gov.uk



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