tScheme Member Briefing - May 2004

tScheme event: Wednesday 21st April

The promotional event held at the DTI Conference Centre was an acclaimed success. Over sixty of our invited guests attended the event: including a number of prospective new Members and/or Grant applicants, and ten representatives from target publications.

Press coverage in the weeks following the event has been very supportive, with all of our key messages included. Publications carrying the story have included the following: *Silicon.com (22nd April); The Register (22nd April); New Media Age (22nd April); VNU Newswire (26th April); IT Week (26th April); Computing (27th April); Computer Weekly (27th April); Supply Management (29th April)*; including online coverage at
http://www.silicon.com/management/government/0,39024677,39120185,00.htm
http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/04/22/pki_self_regulation/

Further News Releases and feature articles are being prepared, so that we achieve maximum benefit from this event and the new publicity this initiative has generated. Chelgate Ltd. will continue to the end of June on their initial Press & PR assignment - and depending on results achieved the Board will review the options for keeping up our current momentum on the communications plan during the remainder of 2004.

A reminder of the key messages, in case any of our Members is approached for an interview or is asked to comment on *tScheme* success and current positioning:

- the fourth anniversary of the '*tScheme* Charter' is on 25th May: the date of Royal Assent to the Electronic Communications Act (2000), for which *tScheme* continues to be HMG's preferred option in fulfilling Part I - and therefore this date marks the beginning of the final year of the "sunset clause" in the Act, beyond which a new Act would be required (which no-one is advocating, least of all HMG);
- *tScheme* has successfully achieved its initial objectives by establishing a robust independent regulatory scheme, within the context of international accreditation and independent assessment standards, and in line with DTI objectives on industry co-regulation;
- *tScheme*'s role as the independent regulator is now growing, to encompass all services in the emerging area of electronic identity provision and management: including for e-government National Project services;
- an important contribution is now being made by *tScheme* in enabling real government 'g2b' projects, as an independent source of 'best-practice' service assurance: as attested to by the event presentations on *tScheme*'s importance to the imminent launch of the DTI's Oil & Gas portal and to the success of the MOD's Defence eCommerce service.

tScheme and e-Government delivery assurance

Building on our strong links with the Local Authority consortium leading the National Benefits Project, a joint meeting took place in London on 4th May with the National Benefits Project team, representatives from the eEnvoy service delivery team, and with the Local eGovernment Standards Body which is being led by a second consortium.

This meeting initiated follow-up actions to clarify further key aspects such as the potential cost model for *tScheme* assessment activity across the anticipated very large number of 'intermediary' service delivery functions: as well as the timescales involved in such a major undertaking. Very similar discussions are also continuing with CESG regarding the approach to *tScheme* service approval for the HMG Root and its departmental 'Root Subscribing CAs'.

Meetings with HMG Departments & Agencies

Alastair Macdonald and Stephen Upton have succeeded in holding a number of constructive meetings during April and early May with user/relying party contacts in key government departments and agencies: including DEFRA; Customs & Excise; Dept. of Health/NHS; and the Inland Revenue; with a meeting at Dept. of Transport arranged for later this month.

All have provided useful insights into their priorities for online service delivery, and in some cases earlier problems that have led to delays in implementation of service roll-out plans. Follow-up activities are being pursued which will help *tScheme* focus on the real service assurance needs underpinning the growth of the e-Government sector.

Result of Board election and Directors for 2004-5

In total, seven candidate nominations for the six seats up for election this year were duly submitted by the closing date of 30th March. The result of the ballot was announced on the 4th May; and the following six candidates were duly elected or re-elected to the *tScheme* Board, with effect from the close of the AGM on 13th May:

Steve Babbage (Vodafone); Peter Dare (IBM); Richard Mabbott (APACS); Andy Ross (RBS); David Shapland (BT); Phil Stradling (Microsoft).

The six Board directors continuing in post are as follows:

Jeremy Beale (CBI); Mark Devine (ACCA); Mark Hale (Barclays); Paul Kelsall (Royal Mail); Kathy Riley (BCC); Stephen Upton (*tScheme - ex officio*).

Three Board seats were once again reserved from the election to be filled by invited independent Appointed Directors, in accordance with the *tScheme* Rules.

Committee meetings during May

The *tScheme* Profiles & Processes Committee next meets on Thursday 20th May, hosted by APACS at Mercury House, Triton Court, 14 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1LQ.

The principal agenda item is the acceptance of the recent disposition of comments and edits applied on the new Electronic Identity Service Approval Profile, tSd0108. Following acceptance of the final edits, this Profile will be signed off and released as Issue 2.0, in time for the first wave of assessments and Grants of Approval to newly-emerging services offering electronic identity credentials of all types - initially likely to be for intermediaries engaged in the roll-out of local e-Government services involving service applications via the Government Gateway.

All members' representatives on this Committee are encouraged either to attend, or to comment in advance of the meeting on the current Draft Profile (tSd0108_1-05) and Disposition of Comments (tSi0269_0-02), circulated to all PPC contacts on 7th May.