tScheme Member Briefing for November/December 2003

tScheme President

The board is very pleased to announce the appointment of Alastair Macdonald as our first *tScheme* President, with effect from 4th December. Alastair has accepted the role for an initial six month period, then subject to mutual review in May with the newly-elected *tScheme* board. Meanwhile his extensive experience of working within DTI and other government departments will be an important success factor in our campaign to raise awareness across all departments, and to create broader support for *tScheme* service approval: both as an external procurement requirement and as an internal service benchmark.

Electronic Identity Provider service approvals

Ideas continue to be discussed with the government's project team for the introduction of new Identity Provider services from their initial target group of potential service providers - including Local Authorities, the online banking community and major private sector employers. This will position Identity Provider service approval by *tScheme* as the required standard.

International markets

tScheme through its leading role in ViTAS - the 'Voluntary Trust service Approval Schemes' multilateral workshop group, aiming to create a shared Code of Practice - will be represented at the AFACT session of the World Summit on Information Security (WSIS), in Geneva on 8th December. Participation in this event will further raise awareness of our international role, and will also help us to establish contact with other peer schemes and mutual recognition initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region. This is yet another milestone in our campaign to increase the level of *tScheme* international recognition - and the consequent cross-border acceptability of our '*tScheme*-Approved Service' Marks.

tScheme *Strategic Action Plan*

The Business Development team has now submitted version 1.0 of the Strategic Action Plan for Board acceptance. This is a key document setting out *tScheme* target markets, objectives and priority actions required to achieve our goals.

The full Plan can be found in the Members' area of the website. All members are invited to review it, and to continue to provide any comments or ideas they have to help achieve our objectives. The Strategic Action Plan will then be reviewed by the newly-elected Board at its first meeting following the AGM in May.

Members' delegate meetings during December

PR & Communications Committee - 4th December 0930

This committee continues to focus on positioning *tScheme* in the market and on raising awareness through the development of a Media Plan. Our market positioning includes both *tScheme*'s existing focus on certificate-based services, and our emerging role as the independent regulator for electronic identity provider services. Such future services would include those associated with the proposed introduction of Entitlement/Identity cards. Meanwhile, planning continues for a key event early in the New Year, with the full participation of the DTI minister, both to mark *tScheme*'s success to date and to announce our key new contribution in assuring best practice in the emerging identity provider services market.

Profiles & Processes Committee - 18th December

The Agenda for the next meeting will include a detailed review of WebTrust 'criteria-mapping' conclusions. This will provide key input for a planned submission to Microsoft, requesting their recognition of *tScheme* as an equivalent independent approval scheme to WebTrust for inclusion of certificates in the browser CTL. In addition, we are now making important progress on our role as the independent regulator for Identity Provider services; and all PPC members are encouraged to get involved in reviewing recent input for Issue 2.0 of the very first Approval Profile to focus on this significant new market for *tScheme* Grants of approval.

NB: Full details of all tScheme committee and expert working group terms of reference and current contributors can be found in the members' area of the website.

tScheme contact numbers

We have now become a truly distributed organisation, with the introduction in November of two 'virtual' numbers, as follows:

Telephone: 08702 417 497 **Fax: 0870 005 6311**

The *tScheme* Registered Office continues as before at 2nd Floor, Russell Square House.
The existing telephone number there will continue in operation for the foreseeable future, but this change reduces our dependency on all calls being forwarded from the Intellect switchboard as at present. However, the new fax number above should be used immediately, as this removes the current delays in forwarding urgent faxes by post.

tScheme website - Members' area password

This will be changed with effect from 1st January. The new password details will be provided at all member meetings during December - however please telephone (using the new number naturally) for the new password details if you are unable to attend a December meeting.

Thank you for your continuing support for *tScheme.*