# *tScheme* Member Briefing - July 2004

## *Promotional activity*

Following successful coverage of our News Releases during May-June in target publications, a number of feature articles are being completed for publication from July onwards: including in ACCA Corporate Sector Review, Security Voice, Public Sector & Local Government, and Government Computing.

The Marketing & Business Development Committee when it meets in September (see below) will review the impact of this initial round of activity, and plan further actions accordingly.

## *ID Card Consultation*

The *tScheme* response to the Home Office ID Card consultation was submitted on 2nd July. Our main message is that if an ID Card scheme is to go ahead (and we are strictly neutral on the principle itself), then the design should not be restricted to Government-related applications but should include a strong private-sector involvement. We also argue for due attention to 'online' uses of the Card - since this not only opens up opportunities for wider use and acceptability, but also introduces far higher security features and a significantly lower risk of forgery.

The closing date for submissions is 20th July. HMG have asked contributors not to publicise their submissions, and so if we are to follow up this has to be direct with HMG through our existing and departmental contacts. By the time of the MDC meeting in September (see notice below) we should have some initial reactions, and a clearer view of the potential for direct *tScheme* involvement.

## *Electronic Identity Services*

The Profiles & Processes Committee is now poised to sign off edits to the new Approval Profile, tSd0108 for Identity Services, which will then be released at Issue 2.0.

This new Profile is expected to be in high demand later this year, as 'intermediary' organisations begin to plan their involvement in the delivery of eGovernment services under the ODPM/LGA National Projects programme.

Regular contact is being established with the leading Local Authority project teams tasked with delivering key eGovernment 'National Project' programmes - including National Benefits, Smartcard and National Standards teams - positioning *tScheme* as an essential source of assurance both internally to underpin secure Local Authority service delivery, and also externally to support mutual acceptability of secure online identities between peer Authorities: enabling true national roll-out as intended.

## *Forthcoming Members' delegate meetings*

***Profiles & Processes Committee (PPC) - 19th or 26th August (date to be confirmed)**

The target for the next meeting will be to review all outstanding markers on currently issued documents.

In addition, detailed work will have commenced on the proposed new "Assessor Standard" documentation for two separate Government service 'Community' (CUG) approval programmes. The first relates to Certificate Services to be provided by departmental Root Subscribing Certificate Authorities (RSCAs), chaining to the HMG Root operated by CESG. The second relates to Electronic Identity Services, to be approved against Issue 2.0 of tSd0108 (see above), to be operated by 'intermediaries' providing credentials permitting access to certain local eGovernment 'National Project' services.

***Joint Marketing&Business Development Committee (MDC) - Wednesday 15th September**

Apart from the need from time to time to review the *tScheme* Strategic Action Plan (SAP) agreed by the Board in February 2004, and to consider progress against its objectives, there are currently a number of 'live' key issues that directly impact on *tScheme*'s market positioning.

These issues therefore require our expert Members' direct input and involvement, so that we can begin to consider what we need to do to market the related messages more effectively - and to develop the perception of *tScheme* as a valued industry resource.

Before the joint MDC next meets in September therefore, a paper has been circulated to all members of the Marketing and Business Development Committee, containing a summary of current status on each of the main issues; for discussion leading up to review and agreement on our tactical approach to achieving the next stage of *tScheme* development:

1. 5th year ECA 'sunset clause' messages: and how to communicate these effectively
2. ID Cards – *tScheme* positioning and follow-up on our current HMG Consultation response
3. Government Security Framework policy regarding *tScheme* approvals and published HMG requirements e.g. HMGVInd & Authentication Framework documents
4. Government Department requirements for 'Online Identity Authentication' – proposed *tScheme* Seminar series
5. Impact of PR activity to date & support/ funding for follow-up activity as appropriate
6. EU Member State digital certificate take-up & any implications for the UK
7. eGovernment National Project roll-out and a proposed multiple 'intermediary services' assessment approach & approval business model
8. HMG Root and a proposed multi-departmental root-subscribing certificate authority (RSCA) assessment approach & approval business model
9. Corporate sector governance and 'federated identity' initiatives – *tScheme* positioning/ communications plan & approval business model
10. Funding for proper *tScheme* marketing activity – prepare a new 'development grant' submission to HMG and/or with their support to the EC, as appropriate
11. International reach - 'mutual recognition' objectives with peer approvals schemes: where next for our ViTAS initiative?

**NB: Full details of all tScheme committee and expert working group terms of reference, including current member delegates, can be found in the Members' area of the website.*

*For a copy of this document, please click here.*

Thank you for your continuing support for *tScheme*.

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