tScheme Member Briefing - March 2004

New Grant of Approval

In February the Approvals Committee confirmed a new Grant of Approval to BeTrusted Inc. for their BeTrusted Certification Authority service; and this new Grant is now listed in the secure Directory of Approved Services on the *tScheme* website.

BeTrusted are understandably eager to promote *tScheme* approval as a major benefit of their service. We will continue to provide them with all *tScheme* promotional material to support this objective.

New Registered Applicant service

The Approvals Committee has also confirmed Registered Applicant status for the ChamberSign service, as operated in the UK through the 61 local Chambers of Commerce. The ChamberSign team are now working closely with *tScheme* to agree the scope of the service approval required, leading up to a detailed service assessment by LRQA expected to begin in May.

tScheme promotional event: Wednesday 21st April

The promotional event hosted by DTI and to be addressed by the minister will focus on four main themes:

- the 4th anniversary of the '*tScheme* Charter' on 25th May: this is the date of the Royal Assent to the Electronic Communications Act (2000) for which *tScheme* continues to be HMG's preferred option in fulfilling Part I - and this date therefore also marks the beginning of the final year of the "sunset clause" beyond which a new Act would be required;
- the success of *tScheme* in achieving its initial objectives and in establishing a robust independent regulatory scheme, in line with DTI policy on industry co-regulation. This will be marked at the event by presenting formal Grants to the five *tScheme*-approved service providers, and formal UKAS accreditation to the two *tScheme*-recognised assessors;
- *tScheme*'s expanding role as the independent regulator for all services in the emerging area of electronic identity provision and management, and as an ideal private-sector partner for Government in combating the risks from identity fraud;
- the key role being played by *tScheme* in enabling real government projects, as an independent source of 'best-practice' service assurance [with brief overview presentations on *tScheme*'s relevance to the DTI 'Oil & Gas' portal and the MOD procurement initiative], and also in the roll-out of certain local e-government National Project services [with a brief overview presentation on *tScheme*'s contribution to the National Benefits Project].

The target audience will be drawn from a representative cross-section of service providers, relying parties and users from government and corporate sectors: with a number of invited Press contacts to carry the messages to a far wider audience.

Engagement of a professional PR organisation to ensure we achieve maximum impact and awareness from the event and follow-up activities will be a key success factor, subject only to realistic budget constraints.

Electronic Identity service approvals

Strong progress continues with the Cabinet Office project team, and now with the local e-government National Benefits Project team on *tScheme*'s contribution to the successful roll-out of new Electronic Identity services - through which the Project benefits will be delivered to all participating Local Authority communities.

The initial local e-government consortium on this Project, led by Rotherham MBC, was represented by their Programme Manager at the February meeting of the Profiles & Processes Committee; and their contribution of ideas and new inputs in developing 'best practice' service models for this key new area is being encouraged.

Membership news

Our operating budget shows a target of four new members joining at some stage during the current year - and a final push is now being made for end March in time for new Members' participation in this year's Board election (see below).

We appeal to all current members to spread the *tScheme* message: **"all those with an interest in a thriving networked economy, and in developing best practice to support secure electronic transactions, should now become members of *tScheme* and participate fully in best practice development."**

Board election 2004

The current *tScheme* Board on 4th March issued a general call for Members' nominations of their organisation's candidate for the 2004 election of Directors.

A total of six seats are available this year: five of these are being vacated as required under the Rules by those longest-serving since their last election to the Board, and one further seat due to a Member resignation at the end of 2003.

The five current Board Directors elected in 2003 who are NOT required to resign, and who will therefore be continuing in office following the election are as follows:

Mark Devine	ACCA
Mark Hale	Barclays
Kathy Riley	BCC
Jeremy Beale	CBI
Paul Kelsall	Royal Mail

Candidate nominations for the remaining six elected seats are now to be submitted to the *tScheme* Secretariat, together with a brief pen-picture of each candidate which will be posted in the Members' area of the *tScheme* website to support their candidacy.

All paid-up Members at the end of March are eligible to nominate a candidate for the Board, and to vote in the subsequent Membership ballot.

Ballot papers will be issued at the beginning of April, for return within four weeks - and the election result will be announced on 3rd May. The newly-elected Board then takes office immediately following the Annual General Meeting of tScheme Limited, this year on Thursday 13th May.

Please send nominations and candidate details by email to stephen.upton@tScheme.org to arrive on or before Wednesday 31st March.

Forthcoming Members' delegate meetings

***Legal & Contracts Committee - 10th March**

The Agenda for this meeting will be a discussion on the proposed constitutional changes that will address points raised by counsel and to bring the constitution into line with current practice.

***Profiles & Processes Committee - 15th April**

The target for the next meeting will be to agree the latest version of the Identity Services Profile, with a view to recommending to the board the release of Issue 2.0

**NB: Full details of all tScheme committee and expert working group terms of reference, including current member participation, 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*.

SHU - as agreed by the Board on 4th March 2004