Message from the STA Chair

The IT-Trans in Karlsruhe is the first occasion for the STA to come together in person since the start of the pandemic. We are very excited to meet with our members and contacts again and have an exchange on the various mobility topics that we are all so passionate about. In this newsletter you will find our key highlights of the past few months. I am in particular proud to announce that the STA has been accepted as a member to the European Commission's Multimodal Passenger Mobility Forum.

Read on to find out more!

Kind regards,
John Verity

Our topics today:

1. STA Annual General Meeting on 11 May 2022 at IT-Trans in Karlsruhe
2. UITP and STA workshop on Trusting Ticketing in MaaS on 9 May 2022 at IT-Trans in Karlsruhe
3. STA is a member of the European Commission's Multimodal Passenger Mobility Forum
4. STA updated Glossary to be published in April
5. Not yet a member? Join the STA now.
6. Interview with STA members: Steve Holden, CEO, ITSO Ltd, UK
The STA will hold its 2022 Annual General Meeting on 11 May 2022 (10.00-12.00) at the IT-TRANS in Karlsruhe, Germany. The elections for the Board will take place during the meeting, which is open to STA members. To engage with all of our stakeholders, we are delighted to also be present at the VDV-ETS stand during the entire conference and we will be delighted to have a chat with many of you.

UITP and STA workshop on Trusting Ticketing in MaaS on 9 May 2022 at IT-Trans in Karlsruhe
On the occasion of IT-Trans, the UITP and STA join forces for a workshop entitled “Trusting Ticketing in MaaS” on 9 May 2022 at 15.00 - 17.30. This exciting topic will be discussed by a high-level panel of speakers from the sector. The UITP & STA dedicated working group will also present the results of its first paper. The detailed programme will be published on the STA website shortly. To secure your place, please register here: https://efficy.uitp.org/event.php?id=8020

STA is a member of the European Commission’s Multimodal Passenger Mobility Forum

The STA has successfully applied to the European Commission’s Multimodal Passenger Mobility Forum and took part in its first meeting on 23 February 2022, which was an introduction to the Forum’s vision, mission, objectives and members. The STA is looking forward to contributing to this work, as it is a strong advocate for multimodal mobility through Smart Ticketing, which has the potential to serve all modes of transport, integrating journey planning, cross-border travel and flexible modes of payments. The STA has thus an important role to play in enabling the traveler to take informed decisions and driving the concept of Mobility as a Service (MaaS) forward.
STA updated Glossary to be published in April

Following the publication of the STA Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations used in the Public Transport Ticketing Industry in 2021, the dedicated Working Group is in the process of finalising a new version that goes beyond public transport and comprises all forms of mobility. The next version of the Glossary, which is expected to be published in April, will thus contribute even more to demystifying some of the jargon used in the sector, particularly relating to Smart Ticketing.

Not yet a member? Join the STA now.

If you are not yet a member of the STA but wish to explore this option, you can find more information here: https://www.smart-
Interview with STA members: Steve Holden, CEO, ITSO Ltd, UK

What are your main activities during weekdays?

With such a rich and varied membership I spend a considerable amount of time discussing with members the needs of passengers, and how we best support modal shift towards public transport. We collectively achieve this through the development of passenger focused products that make it easy for passengers to make the change. While we have a focus on the ITSO Specification and its implementation, the resultant products and services have a vital role to play in promoting multi-modal public transport use.

A large part of our time is spent looking at the technology from the smallest component through to the large amount of data. Technology is constantly evolving and we need to be able to support those deployments across the UK, and we need to support operators looking to both innovate and maintain existing operations.

Why did you co-found the STA?
ITSO had seen the value of cooperation within the standards community for many years. The opportunity through the European Commission to join with other like-minded interoperable smartcard organisations across Europe through the EU-IFM Project was the stimulus to create a permanent alliance. The STA has now seamlessly become the centre for expertise across Mobility Ticketing. A particular highlight has been the way the STA has set the way forward for the successful and secure roll-out of NFC-enabled devices such as smartphones and tablets and is now set to repeat the success in the roll-out of Mobility as a Service (MaaS).

I have been particularly involved with the STA work on Certification. No transport smartcard scheme can work across transport operators if the smartcards themselves do not work with the ticket machines, gates and validators. The STA has made considerable progress on this over the years through its Certification Working Group which I sit on and contribute to.

What do you expect from the STA?

The STA gives ITSO immediate access to current Best Practice across smart ticketing. We can debate openly about new opportunities and the STA has ensured we all use the same nomenclature when talking amongst our fellow interoperable smartcard schemes, with suppliers and with regulators.

How will you contribute to its success?

ITSO has now been successfully running the interoperable smartcard environment for transport in the UK for 20 years. We can only plan for the next 20 years if we can continue to openly cooperate and work with other similar schemes across the world accessing best practice and ensuring developments in new technology directly meet the needs of the customer and transport operator alike. The STA speaks with that authority.

What do you wish for the future mobility of Europe?

This is perfectly captured in the title of the STA’s current series of seminars: that the Customer can “travel just with their name”. Customers want access to mobility, to get
from A to B with ease and as sustainably as possible. The STA is the glue that turns a journey plan from A to B into reality. We are the enablers of mobility.

Illustrations used in this Newsletter are created by www.freepik.com

More information about the Smart Ticketing Alliance and current topics and events can be found at www.smart-ticketing.org

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