

+++ TMC FORUM NEWSFLASH 1/2002 +++

Best wishes for the new year 2002 - "The Year of TMC!!"

TMC seems to have taken a long time to take off, but the signs look positive that this year will see a real growth in services, sales and customers. Much of that success lies in the hands of the TMC Forum, so let's work together to make 2002 "the year of TMC"!!

Conditional Access

A special clarification meeting was held on 12 December, to consider the first draft specifications and guidelines for conditional access, that had been prepared by an expert group convened by Mark Saunders of the AA. Over 20 members took part in the lively discussion, that resulted in a consensus on a number of important changes to the draft documents. The expert group meets on 11 January, and will submit a final draft specification to the TMC Business Group by the end of January. This will be recommended to the TMC Management Group for approval, after which TMC Forum members can begin to implement the specification in products and services. The approved specification will be posted on the TMC Forum web-site, and submitted to CEN for eventual standardisation. The target is to have fully compliant terminals and services by July 2003.

TMC Roadmap and New Developments

The TMC Business Group has prepared a draft "roadmap" of current and future development priorities for TMC. Key steps include:-

- Location table certification: a procedure has been drafted for the TMC Forum to certify location tables; this will ensure an orderly process for updates and amendments to existing tables, and for introduction of new tables. The Test Tool Requirements Task Force of the Location Referencing Business Group is developing requirements for a software tool to help develop and test a location table; a staged introduction will allow de-facto approval of existing tables, moving to full manual certification and finally to self pre-certification by approved suppliers. These procedures will reduce costs for location database owners, table suppliers and terminal manufacturers alike, and lead to an orderly planning for table updates and releases.
- Service & equipment certification: procedures are being drafted for the TMC Forum to examine the compliance of both terminal equipment and broadcast services with TMC standards and guidelines; if successful, these procedures will lead to a formal certification process. This will help suppliers, who will know which features are implemented in services, and service providers, who will know which features are supported by receivers.
- New features in TMC: new forms have been designed for TMC Forum members to submit "use cases" for new features in TMC, or to correct current problems. Already use cases have been submitted for coding link roads in a location table, and for providing regional/local content in TMC services. Future cases could include parking information,

service levels (e.g. for floating car data), traffic forecasts, weather forecasts, TMC on DAB...A New Features Task Force will be set up to develop these ideas and recommend which should go forward for implementation.

TMC Forum Membership

A high-profile membership campaign will be launched early in 2002, to ensure that all key players in TMC are or become members of the Forum. This will be supported by publicity materials, a re-vamped web-site, one-to-one contacts, and a "TMC Showcase" later in the year. Membership renewal letters will be sent out shortly.

TMC Forum Assembly

The annual TMC Forum Assembly will be held before the summer (date to be confirmed). This will report on the many activities of the TMC Forum Business Groups and Task Forces, as well as offering a platform for industry presentations and an exhibition space.

Forthcoming events

Conditional Access task force	11 Jan, ERTICO
Location Table Tool Requirements Task Force	15 Jan, ERTICO
TMC Forum Management Group	13 Feb, ERTICO

Contact and further information

If your organisation has any news about TMC events, activities, products and services, please contact:

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