

**From:** Kompfner Paul  
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**Importance:** High

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***TMC Forum Membership 2002 - "The Year of TMC!!"***

It's time to renew your membership for the year 2002, or if you're not already a member then it's time to join! Please see the attached membership letter and renewal/application form. Please return completed forms by 15 March!!

***TMC Enhancements***

The Conditional Access Task Force has completed specifications for encryption and conditional access, these have been circulated in the TMC Forum. Guidelines for implementation are in preparation. The method is based on a "service key", partly broadcast and partly in the receiver, so service providers can control access to their services. The method can also identify permitted roaming partners.

A "New Features Task Force" will be set up, to coordinate development of proposed new features and services. An early task targets local and regional location codes, for traffic information definition in urban areas. Other candidate features include parking information, travel time (e.g. from floating vehicle data), traffic forecasts and weather forecasts. Anyone interested should contact the TMC Forum Co-ordinator (see below).

The problem of location coding for link roads will be tackled by a new "Link Roads Task Force" of the Location Referencing Business Group. Details will be announced shortly.

***Putting quality first***

Measures to improve quality throughout the TMC product and service chain have been put at the top of the TMC Forum action list. These address issues of location tables, receivers, services and traffic information.

A new procedure has been put in place to verify new and amended TMC location tables (LT), and to coordinate their release in products and services. The LT provider will submit a request for verification of the LT (a fee will be payable by non-TMC Forum members). Verification will be carried out by a Location Table Release Team reporting directly to the TMC Forum Management Group.

Each submitted LT will be verified against the ALERT-C standard and Location Coding Handbook. In a first phase, a manual method will be used. Later submissions will be checked against a detailed set of requirements (currently being defined by the Test Tool Requirements Task Force), ultimately with the aid of a software testing tool.

In a first stage, LTs currently in use and regarded as satisfactory will receive immediate approval. A second group of existing or forthcoming LTs will need modification before

receiving a seal of approval, while all new submissions will need to follow the new approvals procedure.

Work has also begun in the TMC Business Group to define procedures to verify compliance of TMC services and receivers with TMC standards and good practice. This should give better matching between features offered in broadcast services and those supported in receivers.

A major new task this year will be to develop means for monitoring the quality and reliability of TMC traffic information services. This could lead to the award of a TMC Forum “quality seal” to services that meet a defined quality benchmark. With its emphasis on quality as perceived by end users, this will give a boost to the TMC market.

### ***TMC Forum Assembly***

Two general Assembly meetings of the TMC Forum will be held this year. The first, on Thursday 23 May at ERTICO in Brussels, will include nominations for election to the TMC Management Group. The May Assembly will also feature keynote presentations on the “TMC Roadmap”, location table management, conditional access and new TMC features and services. Exhibition space will be available for suppliers and service providers to show off their products in a “TMC Showcase”.

The second Assembly meeting of 2002 will be held on 14 November, also at ERTICO in Brussels. The main business will be to elect a new Management Group. TMC Forum Members are encouraged to suggest other topics for the agenda!

### ***Membership and outreach***

It’s membership renewal time for 2002! The annual fee has been set at €4200 - covered by ERTICO for its Partners. The increase is needed to enable the TMC Forum to carry out its extended range of support and development activities. These are essential to confirm the TMC Forum’s function as central action point for all things TMC, and for administering and “policing” TMC quality.

Participation in TMC Forum working groups and task forces is limited to full Members of the Forum, as is access to working documents. At this time when TMC services are starting to find real success in the marketplace, and when technical developments are being mapped out to make TMC “future-proof”, it is vital that all actors involved in TMC join - and participate actively in - the Forum.

Key outreach developments will be the soon-to-be-relaunched TMC Forum web-site, and the TMC Handbook, an “A-Z” guide to the fundamentals of TMC and step-by-step guide to setting up a new TMC service. Members will also receive results of a new survey of TMC services and location table information.

Lastly, TMC is one of four themes at the ERTICO Think Tank (6-8 May in Cannes). The TMC session will feature keynote presentations on future prospects and issued for TMC

receivers and services, as well as a dedicated break-out session to debate the future requirements for TMC enhancement as well as for successful commercial TMC services.

***Forthcoming events***

TMC Forum Assembly	23 May, ERTICO
TMC Forum Management Group	16 Apr, 22 May, ERTICO
Tool Requirements Task Force	12 March, ERTICO

***Contact and further information***

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

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