

DATEX II forum

Version 1.0 of the DATEX II specifications were published in December 2006 and marked the point where a stable version of the content and exchange models were available for road authorities and other interested organisations to begin implementing DATEX II interfaces. Since December 2006 several UK organisations have implemented DATEX II compliant publications and the Highways Agency in particular is keen to base its traffic data exchanges with Local Highways Authorities on DATEX II. During this time a number of UTMC linked DATEX II data exchanges have also been developed.

With this level of DATEX II related activity in the UK this is an opportunity for implementers to share best practice and support, and for customers to be able to steer future developments of DATEX II according to their needs. In order to meet these requirements the TIH Executive has created a DATEX II forum. The purpose of the forum is to capture and address DATEX II issues. The forum will also be a mechanism for keeping UK organisations updated with DATEX II proposals and services from other European countries.

Initially the forum will be a mailing list administered by ITS (UK). It is anticipated that technical support will shortly be provided via the Highways Agency's DATEX II support contract to begin addressing some of the known DATEX II issues.

Terms of Reference for the DATEX II forum are outlined below:

- Membership would be open to anybody with an interest in DATEX II;
- The forum will be a focal point for advice and news relating to new developments to DATEX II, progress with CEN standardisation, any known problems and work-arounds. News and information relating to DATEX II will be disseminated using the DATEX II, TIH, and ITS (UK) distribution lists;
- Forum members will be encouraged to share implementation best practice;
- Any technical issues arising from the forum will be raised at TIH Exec/JCG level to decide appropriate action that the TIH Executive or Joint Chairs Group deem appropriate for resolution.
- The forum's initial focus will be on resolving known issues between DATEX II and other systems;
- System suppliers are welcome to join the forum but actions to resolve issues will be the responsibility of the TIH Executive/Joint Chairs Group
- The forum will act as a focal point for coordinating UK comments on any proposed DATEX II developments from other European countries;
- The forum will act as a focal point for identifying any UK requirements for changes or developments to the DATEX II content and exchange models;
- The forum will support alignment of DATEX II and other standard interface activities;
- Forum members will be encouraged to exploit opportunities for wider deployment of DATEX II.

If you are interested in joining the forum or would like to receive regular updates regarding DATEX II / UTMC, please request to be registered by sending an email with your contact details to datex@its-uk.org.uk