

**Information Society Alliance (EURIM) Shared Infrastructure Meeting
Monday 20th June 2011, 10:30-12:30, Room S, Portcullis House, Palace of Westminster**

Chair: Terry Dillon (Gridline Communications)

Rapporteur: Dan Mount (EURIM)

Summary of Actions

- i) Overview of Work Streams

Work Stream 1: the current situation **Chair: Terry Dillon; Co-Chair: Tara McGeehan**

Description: This group will look at how to map current infrastructures: beginning with the information that is public or otherwise available to members and observers. They will discuss this with OFCOM in order to use and assist their work in this area and also with other bodies engaged in infrastructure mapping or with maps of the infrastructures they helped build or maintain. The first goal of the group will be to produce an inventory of what maps already exist and therefore where the gaps are.

Participant	Organisation	Focus
Manoj Arora	Logica	Power infrastructure
Anthony I'Anson	Alcatel-Lucent	
Bob Franklin	Telcoconsulting	
Richard Walters	Gridline Communications	
Rich Hampshire	Logica	
TBC	NEN Trust	

Work Stream 2: What is required? **Chair: Terry Dillon; Co-Chair: Tara McGeehan**

Description: This group will discuss and document the expected future UK requirements for an open access infrastructure. They will capture current and future programmes (e.g. PSN, Next Generation Access, mobile Broadband and Smart Metering/Grid) and debate the requirements these will generate. They will also think about Consumer and Business user and try to capture these as well.

Participant	Organisation	Focus
Chris Beard	Logica	Smart grid/ smart metering broadband broadband
Anthony I'Anson	Alcatel-Lucent	
Allan Redfern	Gridline Communications	
Stephen Frith		
Mike Kiely	Broadband UK	
TBC	NEN Trust	

Work Stream 3: A framework for open access infrastructure **Chair: Terry Dillon; Co-Chair: Tara McGeehan**

Description: This group will look at what needs to be covered in a framework and associated standards for open access to UK wide shared infrastructure networks. It will also look at governance issues and rules of participation. It will seek to look at international experience, including with similar frameworks or attempts to create them. It will aim to work in co-operation with the relevant officials and regulators.

Participant	Organisation	Focus
Tara McGeehan	Logica	
Chris Kastel	NEN Trust	
Stephen Frith		
Chris Francis [PV to approach]	IBM	
[Susan Shaw to volunteer person]	Fujitsu	

- ii) Manoj Arora (Logica) agreed to help coordinate from a “smart” perspective and recommend stakeholders to be engaged across the three groups.
- iii) Work Stream 2 agreed to draw upon two existing Logica case studies (Cheshire and Warrington) as templates rather than reinventing the wheel. These are to be provided by Cheshire East Council via Julian Cobley.
- iv) The Groups should meet to agree objectives before the end of July – and then report back in mid-September prior to the party conference season.
- v) Philip Virgo offered to contact Chi Onwurah (MP for Newcastle, ex-OFCOM) and seek her involvement as a political monitor.
- vi) OFCOM needs to be engaged to determine where they are with their coverage analysis/mapping exercise **[who leads on this?]**.
- vii) Philip Virgo to contact Cabinet Office in relation to the work they are doing for CPNI and the details of any relevant maps they already have.
- viii) OFCOM, DCMS and the Department for Energy & Climate Change (DECC) have already been invited to participate – this invitation needs to be chased in order to connect with the appropriate representatives from each organisation **[who leads on these activities?]**.
- ix) Chris Godwin and Chris Steel will take the working group material and re-present this for political briefing purposes

Summary of Meeting

1. General meeting discussion

- 1.1 Major infrastructure projects before the UK today, for example broadband services and smart grids are highly capital intensive. It is said that 80% of the capital cost is in the civil engineering. There is a need to see how much of this can be shared because of the potential impact on the capital cost.
- 1.2 One member of the group had already approached OFCOM requesting a telecommunications infrastructure map of the UK – but had not heard back from them as yet.
- 1.3 Information on current utilities and communications infrastructures is often difficult to obtain - although other European countries mandate the public availability of such maps.
- 1.4 There are commonly said to be security issues with regard to collecting and collating such material and/or making it available to others. It was agreed that we should seek to see what is “publicly” available while recognising the security issues - including the need to ensure that those running critical services know whether the infrastructures they rely on are vulnerable to common “single points of failure” so that they can plan accordingly.
- 1.5 It was remarked that it would have been ideal if a representative from OFCOM could have attended the meeting. They will be invited to attend future meetings.

- 1.6 One attendee mentioned that before William Webb had left OFCOM he had been working on a coverage map across the UK. If this were available, it would be very helpful to overlay the mobile coverage map with fixed line “not-spots”.
- 1.7 It was suggested that a long term goal should be the evolution of a more resilient architecture which has the capacity to flexibly re-route in the case of problems in a particular part of the network.
- 1.8 Every Local Authority has access to a site by site inventory of base stations and OFCOM has a database covering this.
- 1.9 The Digital Economy Act requires OFCOM to provide a report back/update on the state of telecommunications infrastructure every two years. Cabinet Office’s 2011 ICT Strategy calls for a single Public Sector Network (PSN) to provide a single, holistic telecommunications infrastructure for the entire public sector.
- 1.10 The group needs to be aware of what others are doing in this space – for example the Smart Metering Group.
- 1.11 Rural areas need to be covered in order to bolster the UK economy. We need to identify those areas we can’t currently reach and determine how we can address that.
- 1.12 Regional Broadband Consortia are installing networks for schools – now 100MB for secondary schools and 10MB for primary schools – 26,000 schools covering 10 million pupils. This is a huge national network which could be exploited as a backhaul. This is especially relevant because home broadband usage picks up when schools close for the day. The JANET backhaul is 120 Gbps.
- 1.13 The cost of equipment to increase bandwidth on any existing network is comparatively small compared to the cost of the basic network.
- 1.14 There is a significant amount of legacy/historic infrastructure criss-crossing the UK which might be switched on and used.
- 1.15 The group should take an holistic view of infrastructure demands and requirements – as opposed to simply just relying on the schools network.
- 1.16 The issue of using publically funded infrastructure for private sector purposes was raised – along with the need to identify what guidance exists in this area. It was noted that there is currently a consultation out on broadband state aid guidelines. The suggestion was made that EURIM should lobby for small broadband projects to be exempted from state aid rules.
- 1.17 There is presently an opportunity to do things at a national level and at EU level. In addition, September will offer the group the chance to field briefing material and shopping lists to both Conservative and Labour Conferences.
- 1.18 There is a need to link broadband with green issues in order to build a hunting pack of MPs (bearing in mind that the 2010 election brought in 230 new MPs, many of whom have a significant green focus).

- 1.19 There may not always be sufficient incentive for education networks to share their infrastructure (given the fact that in many instances these networks are cost centres).
- 1.20 There is a need to keep an eye on future expectations/requirements for infrastructure to avoid investing in one particular network and then ripping it up five years later and replacing it.
- 1.21 Would smart metering require a dedicated network? Utility companies may be keen to have dedicated networks but hybrid solutions are more likely.
- 1.22 The objective should be to connect users with problems to businesses who see commercial opportunities in addressing these problems.
- 1.23 Unless you mandate an open access infrastructure all you are doing is building up private sector asset bases.

2. Agreed forward actions

- 2.1 OFCOM needs to be engaged to determine where they are with their coverage analysis/mapping exercise.
- 2.2 Philip Virgo to contact Cabinet Office in relation to the work being done with CPNI and any relevant mapping exercises already under way.
- 2.3 OFCOM, DCMS and the Department for Energy & Climate Change (DECC) have already been invited to participate – this invitation needs to be chased in order to connect with the appropriate representatives from each organisation.

3. Formation of Subgroup/work streams

3.1 Work Stream 1 - the current situation

This group will look at how to map current infrastructures: beginning with the information that is public or otherwise available to members and observers. They will discuss this with OFCOM in order to use and assist their work in this area and also with other bodies engaged in infrastructure mapping or with maps of the infrastructures they helped build or maintain. The first goal of the group will be to produce an inventory of what maps already exists and therefore where the gaps are.

Participants: Manoj Arora (Logica), Anthony l'Anson (Alcatel-Lucent), Bob Franklin (Telcoconsulting), Allan Redfern (Gridline Communications) and Rich Hampshire (Logica). NB: Allan and Rich will focus on the power infrastructure component.

3.2 Work Stream 2 – what is required?

This group will discuss and document the expected future UK requirements for an open access infrastructure. They will capture current and future programmes (e.g. PSN, Next Generation Access, mobile Broadband and Smart Metering/Grid) and debate the requirements these will generate. They will also think about Consumer and Business user and try to capture these as well.

Participants: Chris Beard (Logica) – focus on smart grid/smart metering; Allan Redfern and Anthony I’Anson – focus on broadband side; Stephen Frith; someone from Broadband UK [to be provided by Allan Redfern].

3.3 Work Stream 3 – A Framework for the Open Access Infrastructure

This group will look at what needs to be covered in a framework and associated standards for open access to UK wide shared infrastructure networks. It will also look at governance issues and rules of participation. It will seek to look at international experience, including with similar frameworks or attempts to create them. It will aim to work in co-operation with the relevant officials and regulators.

Participants: Tara McGeehan (Logica); Chris Kastel (NEN Trust); Stephen Frith; someone from Fujitsu [Susan Shaw will recommend participant]; IBM [Philip Virgo will ask Chris Francis to be involved].

- 3.4 Manoj Arora (Logica) agreed to help coordinate from a “smart” perspective and recommend stakeholders to be engaged [presumably across the three groups as necessary?]
- 3.5 Work Stream 2 agreed to draw upon two existing Logica case studies (Cheshire and Warrington) as templates rather than reinventing the wheel. These are to be provided by Cheshire East Council via Julian Copley.
- 3.6 The Groups should meet to agree objectives before the end of July – and then report back in mid-September prior to the party conference season.
- 3.7 Chris Godwin and Chris Steel will take the working group material and re-work this for political briefing purposes.
- 3.8 Philip Virgo offered to link this work back to Chi Onwurah (MP for Newcastle, ex-OFCOM).